FLOWER COMICS

風と木の詩

8

竹宮恵子

FLOWER COMICS

小学館

¥320

雑誌 45112-28

＊フラワーコミックス＊

風と木の詩（うた）

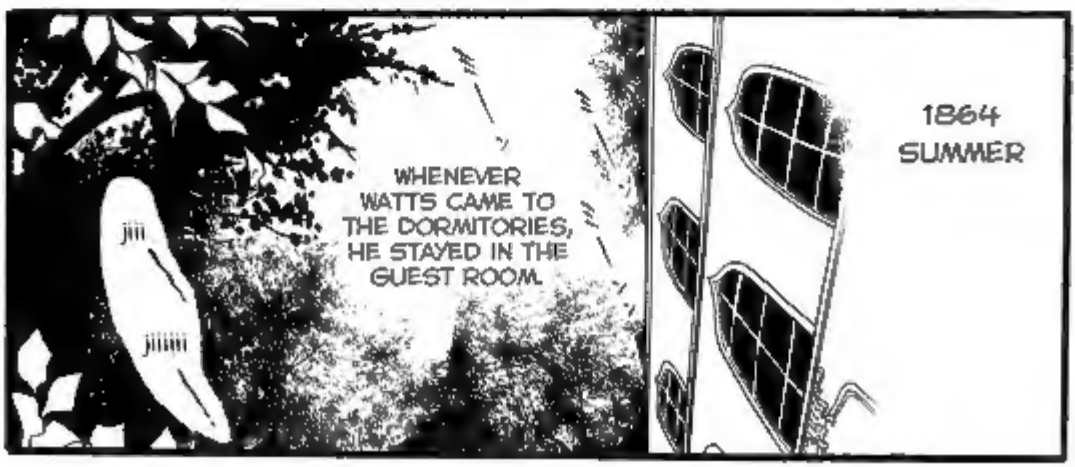
⑧

竹宮恵子

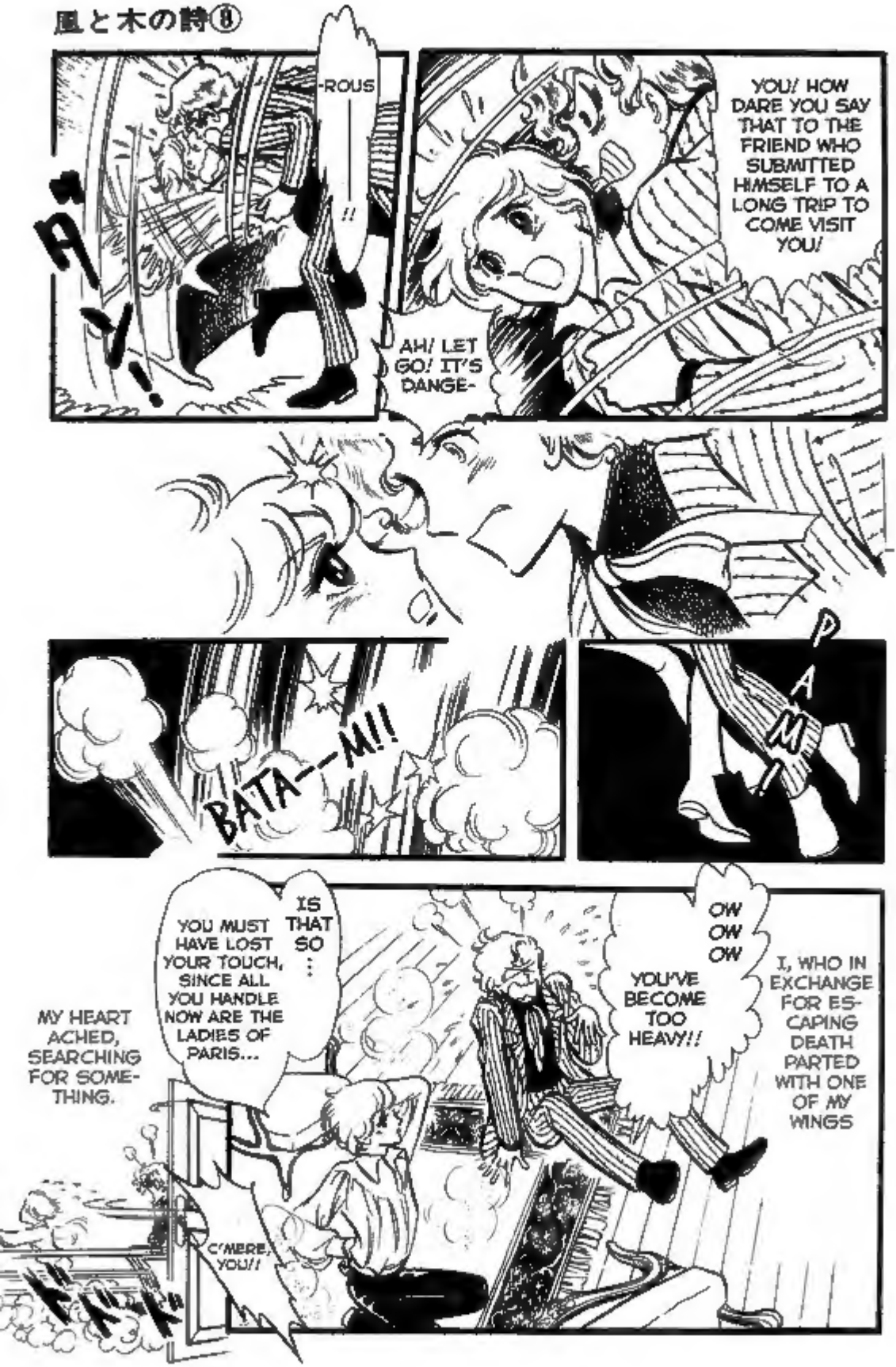
THE UNCHANGING TRANQUIL DAYS IN ARLES

IF POSSIBLE, I TOO WANTED TO COME BACK UNCHANGED

I HOPED THAT WHAT AWAITED ME WAS THE OLD MIDSUMMER SUNSHINE.



KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
FRAN-ÇOIS!
I'M UP, COME IN!
HEY THERE! ARE YOU EVEN BIGGER OR WHAT!
I'VE GOT NOTHING ON YOU, THOUGH!
YOU LOOK HEALTHY!
HOW IS IT GOING? I BET THAT NOW THAT YOU'RE USED TO LIVING IN THE LUXURY OF PARIS
YOU AREN'T ABLE TO SLEEP IN THE DORMITORY BEDS ANY MORE.
EH, SURE THING!
BUT, HEY!
YOU COULD SAY THIS IS A LUXURY.
IF YOU COMPARE IT TO THE QUEEN OF THE CONCIERGERIE*
WOW!
WHAT A WONDER IT IS, BEING ABLE TO HEAR YOU SAY SUCH DANDY WORDS!
*THE PRISON WHERE MARIE ANTOINETTE WAS INCARCERATED.


-ROUS——!!
YOU! HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT TO THE FRIEND WHO SUBMITTED HIMSELF TO A LONG TRIP TO COME VISIT YOU!
AH! LET GO! IT'S DANGE-
BATA——M!!
PAMI
IS THAT SO ⋮
YOU MUST HAVE LOST YOUR TOUCH, SINCE ALL YOU HANDLE NOW ARE THE LADIES OF PARIS...
OW OW OW
YOU'VE BECOME TOO HEAVY!!
I, WHO IN EXCHANGE FOR ES-CAPING DEATH PARTED WITH ONE OF MY WINGS
MY HEART ACHED, SEARCHING FOR SOME-THING.
C'MERE, YOU!!

FOUND HIM!!
STRATEGIST, WHAT ARE YOU DOING! WE'RE GONNA LOSE, WE'RE GONNA LOSE!
IT SEARCHED ONCE AGAIN FOR THE "MEANING" OF LIVING.
IT'S USELESS. YOUR STRATEGIST, DUE TO UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES IS NOW IS PARIS, FAR AWAY FROM THE BATTLEFIELD.
THIS IS FATE. YOU CANNOT OPPOSE IT.
HE'S DESERTING US!!
DON'T CRY!! EVEN NAPOLEON LOST AT WATERLOO!
WE'LL FIGHT TO THE DEATH!
WELL ...
THE USUAL SCHOOL TRADITION.
BY THE WAY, HOW ARE YOU? HAVE YOU BEEN DEDICATING YOURSELF TO YOUR STUDIES, LIKE YOUR FATHER TOLD YOU TO?
RIGHT NOW THERE'S NOTHING ELSE FOR ME TO DO, SO I'M JUST DEDICATING MYSELF TO WHAT I CAN. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY FATHER'S WISHES, OK?

I'M HAPPY JUST BEING ALIVE.

... I UNDERSTAND. I WOULDN'T FIND IT WEIRD IF YOU'RE FEELING DESPERATE, THOUGH.

FOR NOW, YEAH.

THE PATH TO BECOMING A... VISCOUNT?

IT ISN'T TOO LATE TO CHOOSE ANOTHER PATH NOW, RIGHT?

I DIDN'T GO ALL THE WAY DOWN THE PATH TO BECOMING A PIANIST YET SO...

I DIDN'T ANSWER.

MY FRIEND ASKED ME IF, DESPITE THE CHEERFUL LOOK I WAS GIVING HIM, I REALLY REALLY NO LONGER CARED FOR THE PIANO.

Sed dē mē tibi nārrābō.

Longē ā tē abeum.

POCK

!?

whisper whisper

...A LETTER?

"PLEASE GIVE US ADVICE AFTER THE LESSON.

YOUR UNDERCLASSMEN"

SOMEONE IS CRYING

whisper

IT'S LÉON

whisper

HE WAS HIT BY THE PREFECT?

?
GILOT

EVERYONE HAS LIKES AND DIS-LIKES.
HE HATES LATIN, YOU SAY? BUT WHY DOES HE CRY WITH JUST THAT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT LÉON'S PROB-LEM IS!
SHH!

SO HE WAS HIT BY THE PREFECT.
LÉON DOESN'T UNDERSTAND LATIN AT ALL AND GOT A TERRIBLE GRADE IN THE LAST TEST.

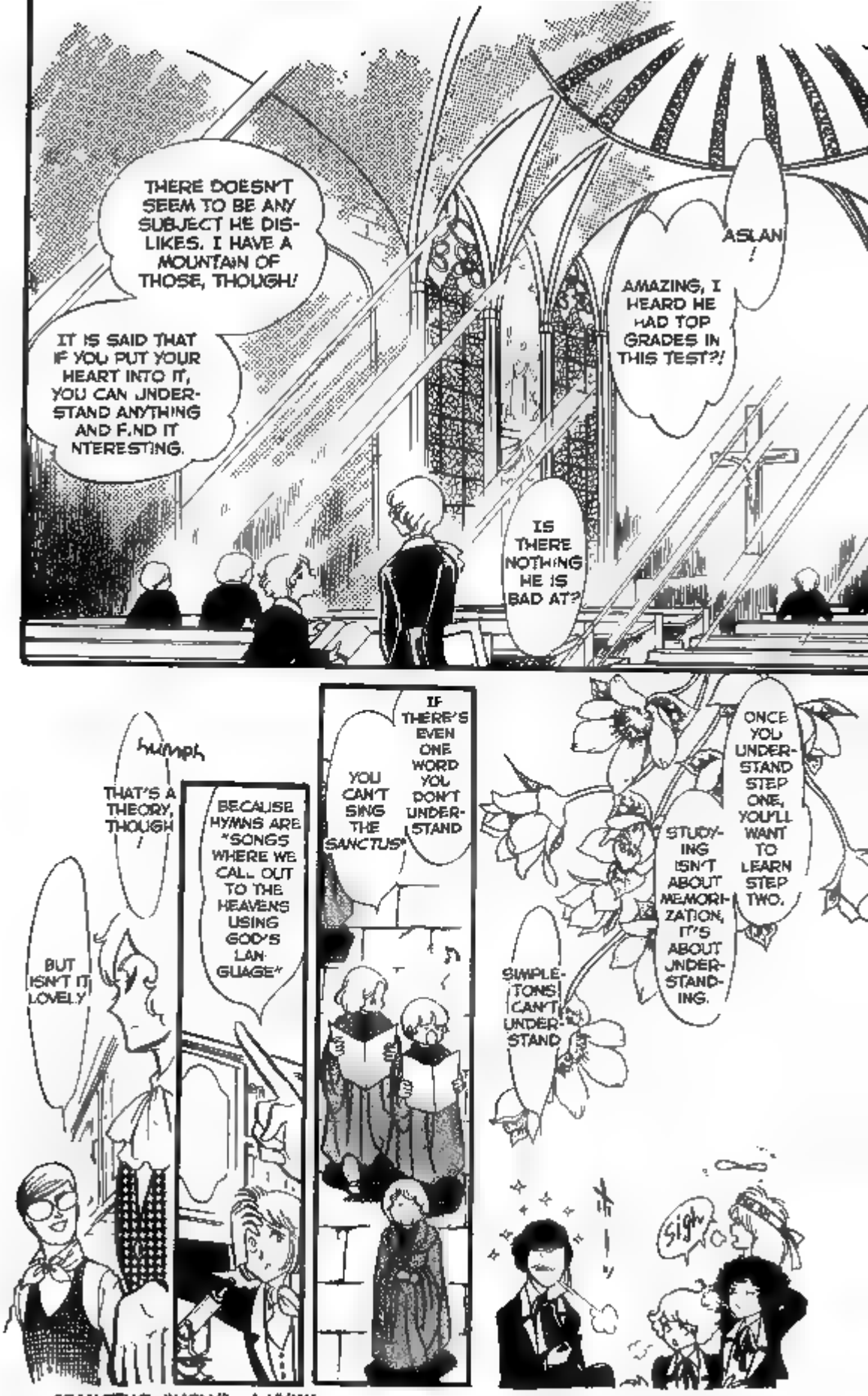
YES
WELL, YOU WANT TO GET A GRADE AT LEAST GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU NOT TO BE HIT, RIGHT, LÉON?

YOU'RE SMART AND GOOD AT EVERY SUB-JECT, SO...
LET'S HAVE A TALK IN THE GYM-NASIUM.

WITH A WHIP ?!
POOR HIM!

THAT'S NOT ALL. HE WAS HUMILI-ATED IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY AND NOW, BE-CAUSE OF THAT, LÉON CAN'T GO OUTSIDE AT ALL!
IT'S OVER!

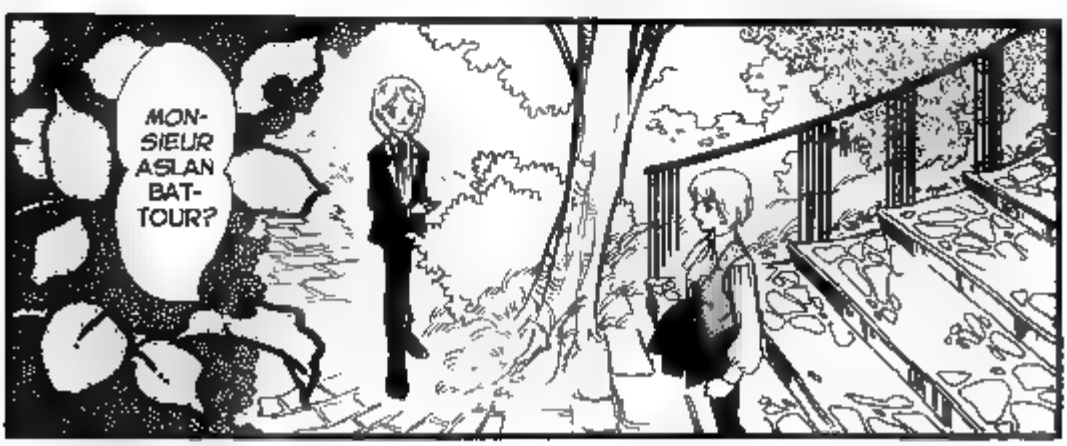
WHY DO YOU HATE IT?
BECAUSE I CAN'T MEMORIZE IT...
TO START OFF, IT'S A GOOD THING YOU THOUGHT ABOUT STUDYING.
IT DOESN'T MATTER THE MOTIVE. IT'S BETTER THAN NOT THINKING ABOUT DOING ANYTHING AT ALL.
IS THAT SO? DO WE REALLY NOT USE IT?
YOU NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT TALKING TO GOD?
WHY CAN'T YOU?
BECAUSE IT'S A LANGUAGE WE DON'T USE.
flabbergasted
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO SPEAK IT, JUST AS IT IS HARD FOR US TO SPEAK LATIN?
SO HE MEMORIZES IT FOR OUR SAKE, JUST LIKE WE DO.
BUT
OF COURSE, GOD KNOWS THE LANGUAGE WE USE NOWADAYS
respect
MOREOVER, LATIN HAS A VERY BEAUTIFUL SOUND, BEFITTING FOR GOD'S LANGUAGE..



*SANCTUS: "HOLY" - A HYMN.

LEAVE HIM BE. HE'S DIFFERENT FROM THE HUMAN WASTE THAT WE ARE.
MY, IF HE ISN'T A GOODY TWO SHOES POSTER BOY!
ASLAN BAT-TOUR, YES?
ASLAN?

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE GAVE HIM A POKE, I WONDER.
WOULD HE KEEP ON BEING A POSTER BOY OR NOT. .
HMPH.


MON-SIEUR ASLAN BAT-TOUR?

WELL, THEN . . .
HE IS WAIT NG FOR YOU AT THE ROAD FORK BY THE POND.
YOU'LL KNOW IF YOU GO
WHO S HE? I DON'T KNOW HIM.
COULY ?
UPPERCLASSMAN COULY? I DON'T KNOW HIM.
OH, ASLAN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
YOU'LL FAINT IF YOU WEAR THAT FORMAL GETUP IN THIS HEAT!
AH, LUTHER.
I'M OUT OF TIME.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT CAN I DO?

SOR RY.
Y- YES? DON'T SHOUT LIKE THAT, WILL YOU.

HEY!

EH !?
LOOK, IF YOU HAVE THE TIME WOULD YOU COME TO THE POND-GUARD'S HOUSE? HE'S MAKING EGG CREPES WITH HAM.
JUST IF YOU CAN BRING LOTS OF PEOPLE!
I SHOULD BE BY THE POND, SO PLEASE LOOK FOR ME.

PLEASE BE AT HOME, HIPPA...

I'M IN A HURRY! SEE YOU!

ケーコたんの 1/4 Page コーナー

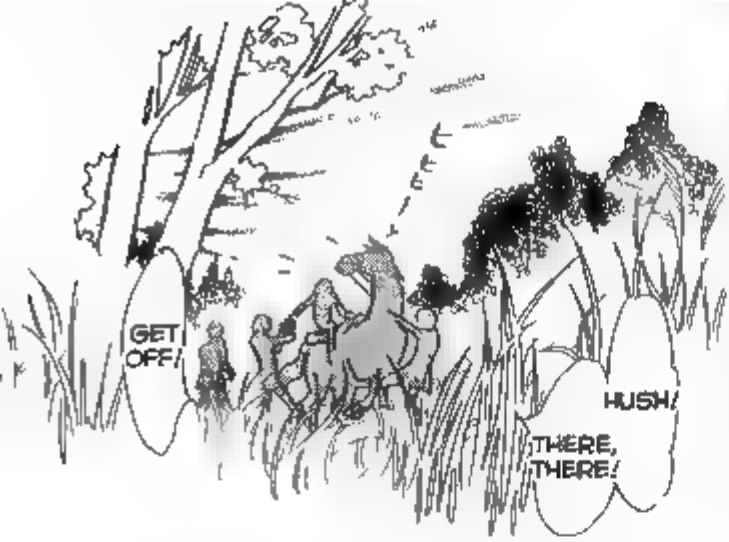
"ギゼン者"とは、アスランやセルジュのような天使聖人間とするがまんがなりません。世の中のキビシサを知らないから あのようにふるまえるのですが あんな人間ホントにいるわけがない!

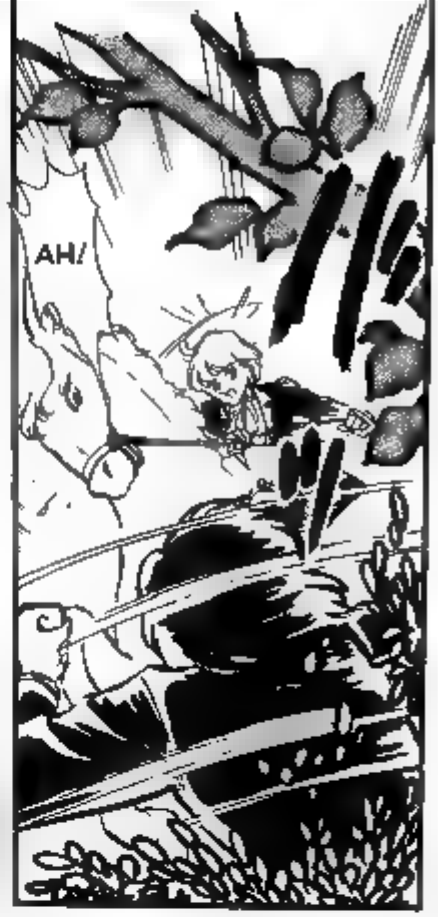
天使聖人間とは 性(正)の考え方よりない人間のこと。たいそうすなおで 悪意がない。"風とともに去りぬ"のメラニー型。ふつうの人間は 長い人生の中で いろいろ経験するうちに 考え方ばかり 汚されていく。時には 挫折に負けて 一見考、陥る。故に天使聖人間を見ると コンプレックスを刺激され 感情的にはもしろくない。僕って 右のような バカ話を書く。じつは 私も書きたいのだ。しかし 人間なれぬこそ 天使(正)と悪魔(負)のはざまに立てるのだ なぜ 両方とも知っている 自分をなげくのはよそう。天使聖人間は 世の中半分しか見てない。これも 同然なのである。

☆お知らせ☆

○竹宮恵子後援会"さんるむ"より 第四期会員 若干名 募集。なお すでに申込んだ方で まだ入会案内書の届かないかたは このコーナーまでお知らせください

〒336 埼玉県浦和市 [illegible] 一 [illegible]-十五
竹宮 [illegible]子
あてでもげっこうです


GET OFF!
HUSH!
THERE, THERE!


AH!

WE CAN AVOID BEING SEEN THERE.
GET INTO THE GRASS.

IT SEEMS YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE NEXT YEAR'S BAC-CALAURÉAT.
YOU'RE RISING UP TO THE POSITION OF SENIOR IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

.....
.....

HUH? HOW SO?
AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE IMPUDENT TOWARDS US, YOUR SUPERI-ORS?

I CAN'T DO THAT!
BE A GOOD BOY AND STOP TAKING THE BACCALAUREAT.

WELL... HOW SHOULD I PUT IT

THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY.
DO WHAT YOU WILL NOW.

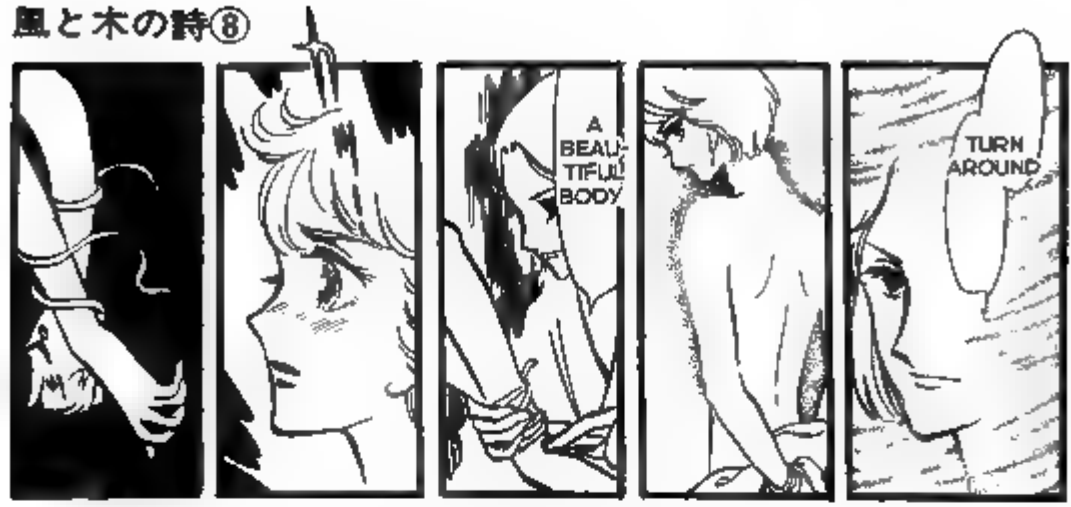
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME TO STOP
I HAVE AN APPROPRIATE REASON TO BE HURRYING THINGS UP.
THEN YOU AT LEAST HAD BETTER HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR THAT!

HIS VOICE IS TREMBLING.

HOLD HIM!
HAVE IN MIND WHY YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE DORMITORY TODAY!!

AH....
DON'T BE AFRAID!
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS... NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!!
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT!
WHA-
AND THAT IF I DROPPED BY YOU'D SHOW ME HOW TO PLUCK THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL?
IS THIS WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU TOLD ME SOMETHING INTERESTING WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?
HOW RIDICULOUS.

BE PREPARED!
COULY, I REALIZED NOW WHAT'S YOUR LEVEL.
STARTING TOMORROW, I'M LETTING LEVA BE THE SUPERINTENDENT.
IS THIS BOY?!
SUPERINTENDENT THE STUDENT SUPERINTENDENT?!
AUGUSTE!


A BEAU-TIFUL BODY
TURN AROUND

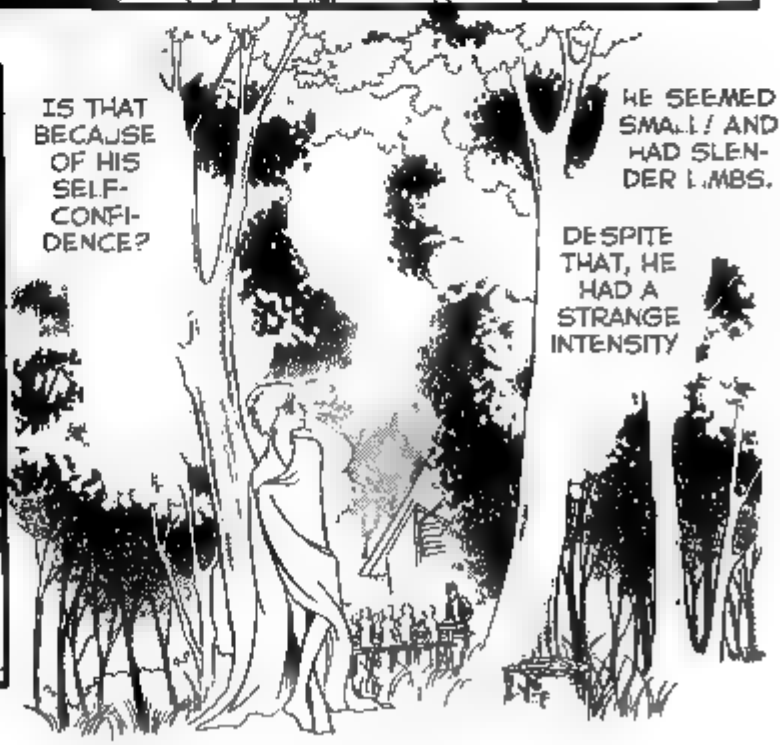
----Bye
GO. WHETHER IT IS TO THE MIDST OF HUMANS OR THE NEST OF ANGELS.
YOU ARE FREE TO GO WHER-EVER.
IT'LL BE AN ISSUE, EXPLAINING YOUR STATE TO YOUR SCHOOL-MATES, BUT
THAT TOO. YOU'RE FREE TO SAY WHAT-EVER YOU WANT

IS HE.. YOUNGER THAN ME?
SHARP EYES WITH A PIERCING GLINT
IS THAT SELF-CONFIDENCE?
MAJESTICALLY
HE WENT AGAINST 4 UPPER-CLASSMEN

WAH! ASLAN!
WHAT'S WITH THE STATE YOU'RE IN!
ASLAN!!
HE SAID HE'D BE BY THE POND. WE SHOULD GO CHECK...
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY! EVEN THOUGH HE TOLD US TO COME.

SO I TOOK THE CHANCE TO GO FOR A SWIM.
AND GOT COVERED IN MUD.
I FELL ON THE BOG

THE HECK, WHAT KIND OF FALL WAS THAT?
HIS BUTTONS ARE ALL TORN OFF.


IS THAT BECAUSE OF HIS SELF-CONFIDENCE?
HE SEEMED SMALL AND HAD SLENDER LIMBS.
DESPITE THAT, HE HAD A STRANGE INTENSITY

WE CAN CATCH SPIES WHILE IN CLASS, DON'T HESITATE! HANG HIM, HANG HIM!
DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
THAT GUY!
TACKLE!
JWAA!

HOW DISAPPOINTING.
I THOUGHT I'D GET TO TORTURE THE SPY I HAD SO MUCH TROUBLE CATCHING.
TSK, TSK.
PAM!
UH!
AH!
HEY, WAKE UP! THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL.
WHAT?
AH, THIS IS NO GOOD! HE'S DEAD!
THANK YOU.
ざっ!!
EXCUSE US, SENPAI! PLEASE PASS THROUGH!
DON'T YOU KNOW? HE WAS OUR ARMY'S STRATEGIST UNTIL LAST MONTH.
WHO IS HE?
OH! ASLAN BATTOUR!
STRONG, HUH? THAT'S GOOD.
HE'S ALRIGHT! HE'LL WAKE UP REAL SOON, DON'T WORRY!
IS HE OK? PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
HE'S STRONG!

EH... ISN'T THAT IN FOUR MONTHS?
THIS YEAR'S ?!
HE SAID HE'S QUITTING T BECAUSE HE'S TAKING THIS YEAR'S BACCALAURÉAT AT THE AGE OF 17!
HE'S GOT TIME TO SPARE!
AH, GOOD GRIEF
?
INDEED YOU ARE. A PUPIL THIS HARD WORKING IS A RARE SIGHT THESE DAYS.
NOT AT ALL!
HUH?
YOU'RE THE HOPE FOR US TEACHERS IN CHARGE OF THE BACCALAURÉAT CLASS
ASLAN.

Chuckle
REALLY, NOW
HOW ADORABLE.
I THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR INSTRUCTION.
AH ...
PLEASE KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
YOUR PRESTIGIOUS GRADES WILL REMAIN IN THE HISTORY OF OUR SCHOOL FOR SURE.
ACTUALLY, I WONDER WHAT I WROTE. I WAS COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN IT
AND THEN, MAY
HEY, ASLAN! HOW DID THE BAC GO? IT MUST HAVE BEEN EASY FOR YOU!

HUMPH.
THAT JERK, WALKING WITH THE WIND BLOWING ON HIM.

EVEN IF THEY'RE THE SAME AGE, HE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON FROM ASLAN!

HIS GRADES ARE NECK AND-NECK WITH ASLAN'S, THOUGH.

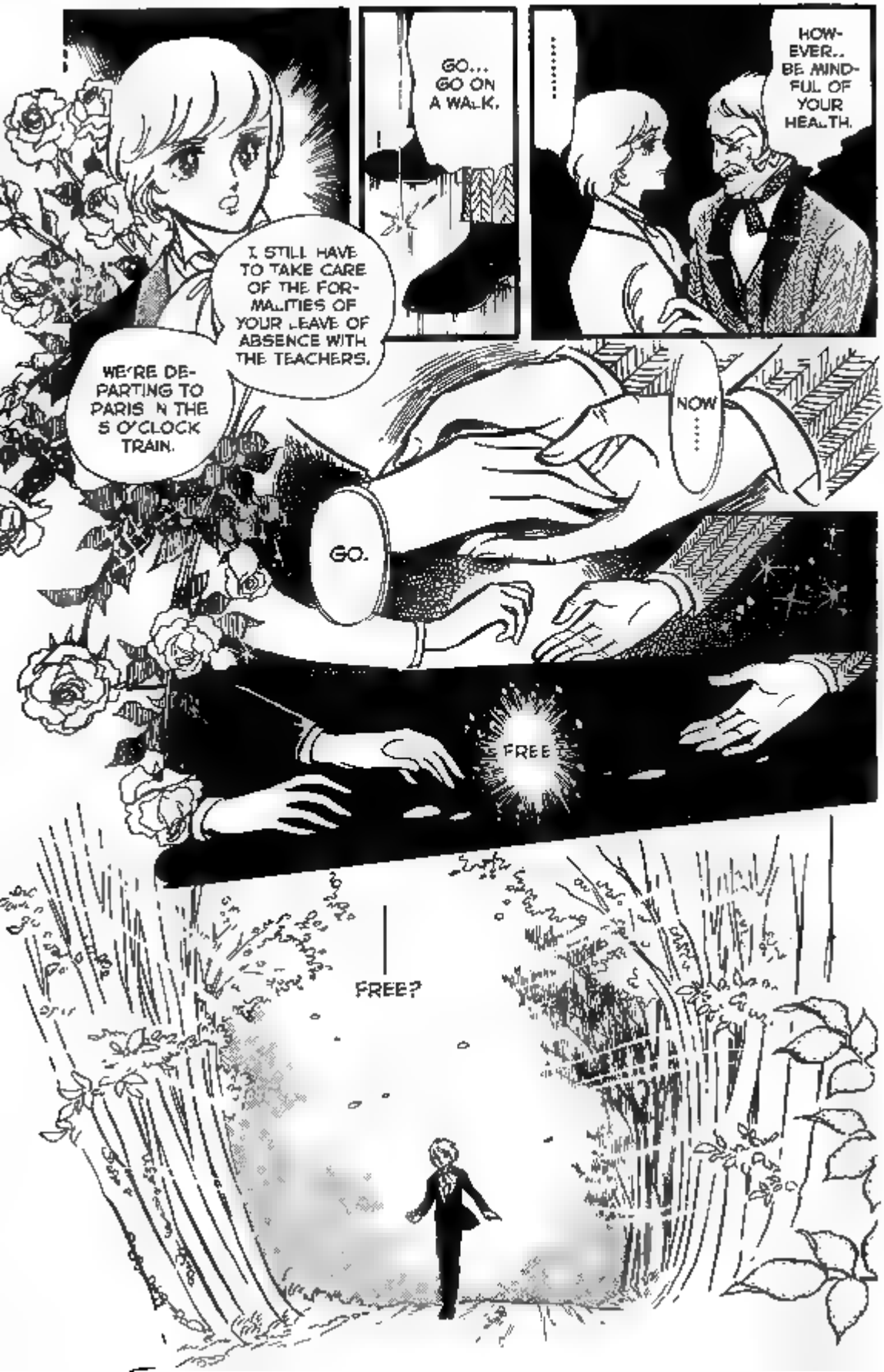
I HEAR HE EVEN BOSSES AROUND THE UPPER-CLASSMEN. HE USES THEM AS BODY-GUARDS

FILTHY

INDEED! IT'S BECAUSE HIS FAMILY'S RICH. THEY CONTROL THE SCHOOL WITH THEIR DONATIONS.
WHY DOES ONLY HE GET SPECIAL TREATMENT? LOITERING AROUND WITH HIS PERSONAL CLOTHES.

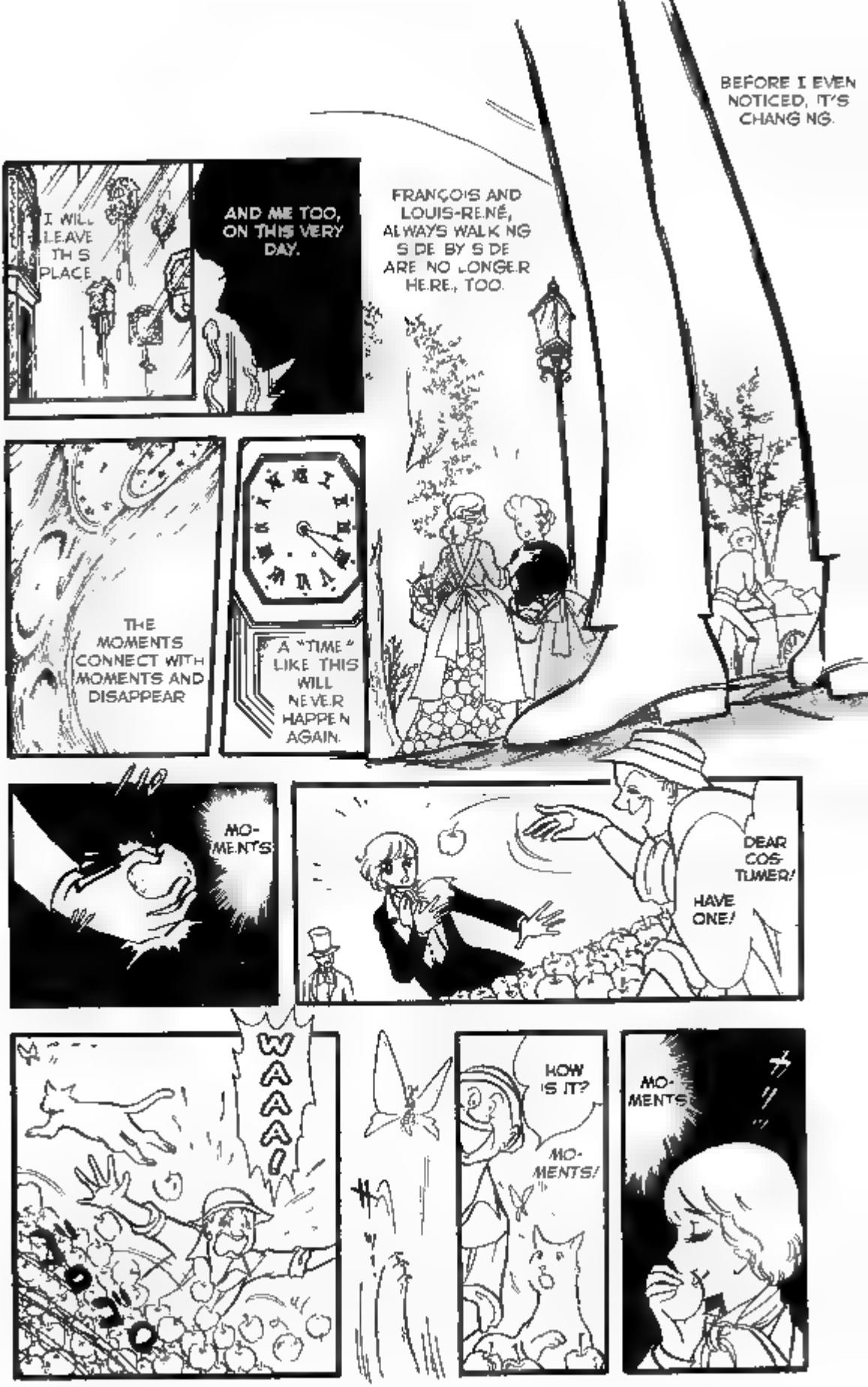
ASLAN BATTOUR HERE.
COME IN.
DID YOU CALL,
DIRECT--

YOU. . DID WELL!
YOU PASSED THE BACCALAURÉAT WITH THE HIGHEST GRADE!
ASLAN!
FATHER?!
YOU WON THIS ALL BY YOURSELF.
YOU CAN PLAY THE PIANO ALL YOU WANT TOO!
UNTIL YOU TURN 19.
SO...
UNTIL YOU GET INTO COLLEGE, YOU'RE FREE TO DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH YOUR TIME.
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT NOW.
I GAVE YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE.
I PASSED!
FREE?!
THE BACCALAURÉAT

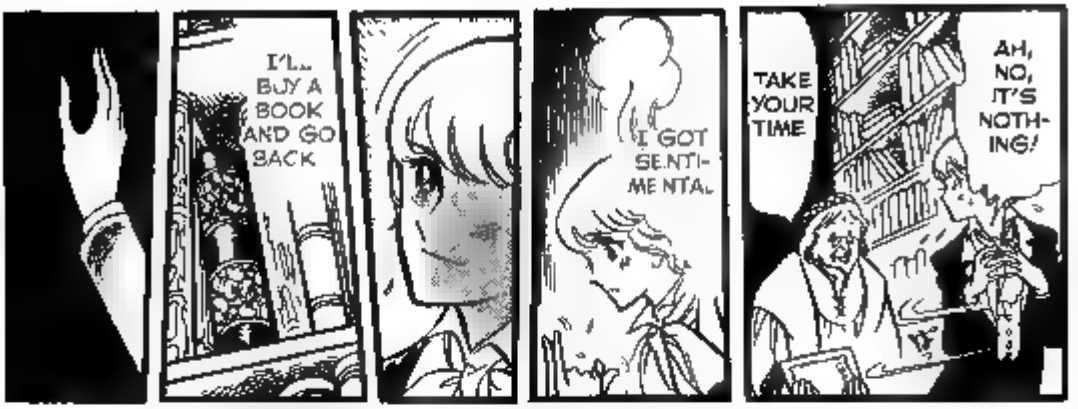

GO... GO ON A WALK.
HOW-EVER.. BE MIND-FUL OF YOUR HEALTH.
I STILL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE FOR-MALITIES OF YOUR LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH THE TEACHERS.
WE'RE DE-PARTING TO PARIS IN THE 5 O'CLOCK TRAIN.
NOW
GO.
FREE
FREE?

DEAR COS-TUM-ERS!
CHEAP!
CHEAP!
FREE
THAT I KNEW EVERY CORNER
I HAD FORGOTTEN
OF THIS SMALL TOWN.
AND UNDER THAT SLOPE OVER THERE, THE OLD SPINNER IS ALWAYS AT WORK.
IS IN LOVE WITH THE BARBER'S SON.
THE CUTE DAUGHTER OF THE YARN SELLER IN THAT CORNER

YES?
HUM ...
EXCU SE ME!
WHERE IS THE OLD SPINNER THAT ALWAYS USED TO BE WERE WORK-ING?
OH
ARE YOU AN AC-QUAINT ANCE OF HERS?
I SEE YOU USED TO VISIT HER
SHE MUST BE HAPPY IN HEAVEN.
SHE PASSED AWAY LAST WINTER
.....


I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE
AND ME TOO, ON THIS VERY DAY.
FRANÇOIS AND LOUIS-RENÉ, ALWAYS WALKING SIDE BY SIDE ARE NO LONGER HERE, TOO.
BEFORE I EVEN NOTICED, IT'S CHANGING.
THE MOMENTS CONNECT WITH MOMENTS AND DISAPPEAR
A "TIME" LIKE THIS WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
MO-MENTS
DEAR COS-TUMER! HAVE ONE!
WAAA!
HOW 'S IT?
MO-MENTS!
MO-MENTS

HOW MUCH TIME HAVE WE WASTED?
I WANT TO STOP TIME!
AT LEAST IN MY MEMORIES
I OFTEN CAME HERE WITH FRANÇOIS AND THE OTHERS
AN ANTIQUE BOOK SHOP.
OH, OLD MAN!
HUH?
WEL-COME!
WE CAME HERE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME RATHER THAN BUYING BOOKS.
THEY WENT AWAY
SO I STOPPED COMING HERE


I'LL BUY A BOOK AND GO BACK
I GOT SENTIMENTAL
TAKE YOUR TIME
AH, NO, IT'S NOTHING!

AS A MEMENTO OF TODAY

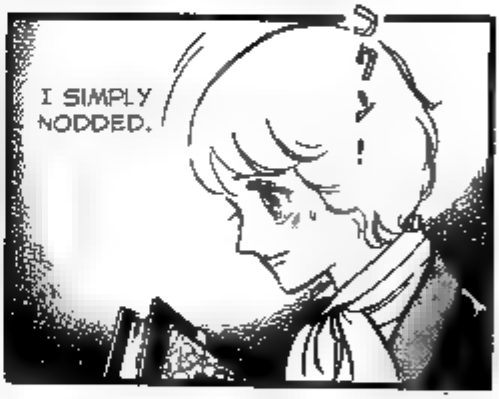
AN OLD STRINGS
INSIDE...
THERE IS NOTHING WRITTEN.!
I FELT LIKE I WAS EXPECTING THIS THE MOMENT BEFORE I OPENED IT.

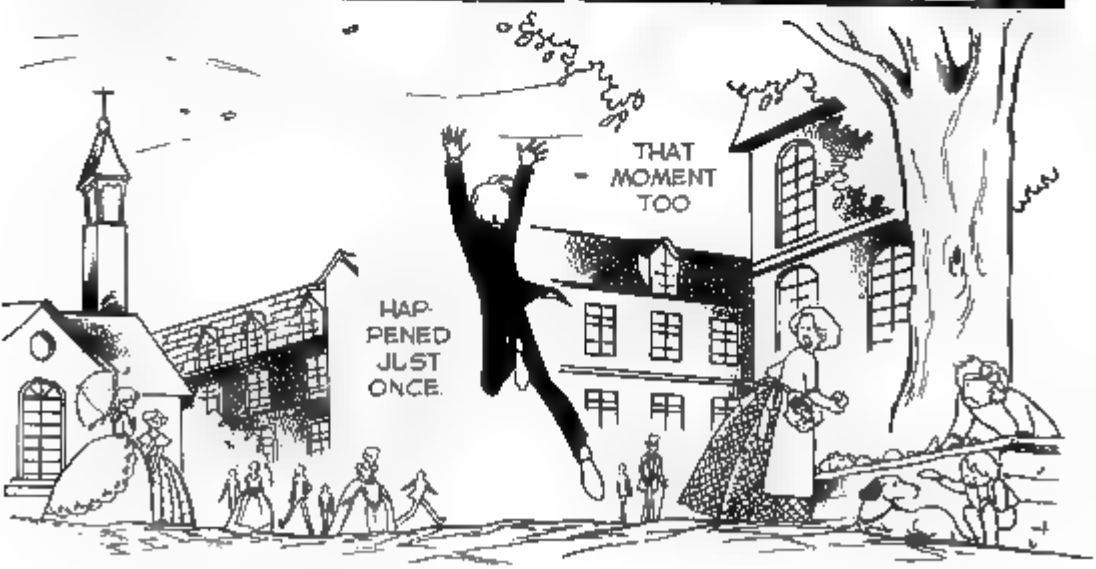
バタン

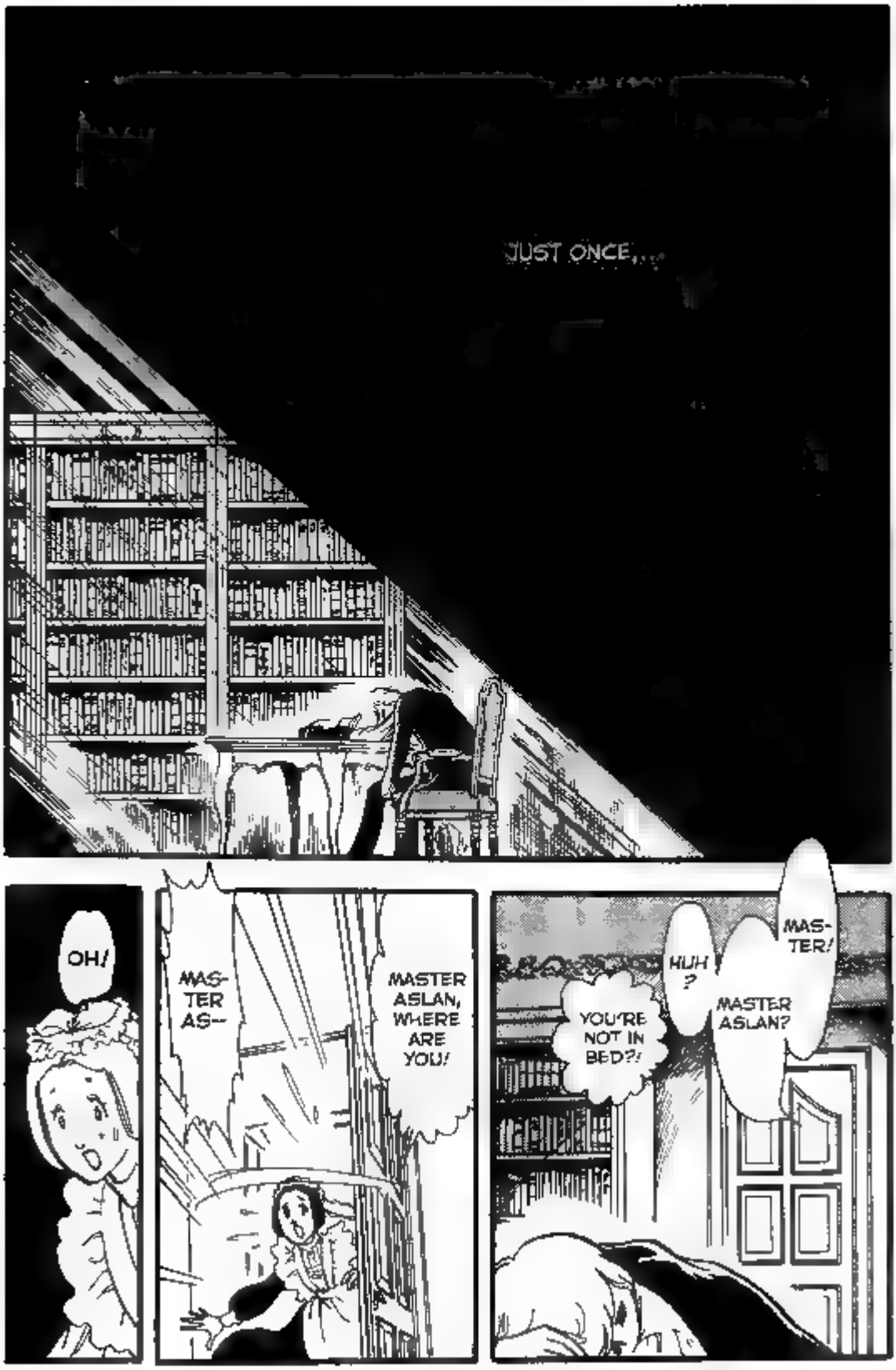
SHOULD I WRAP IT UP?
AS IF READING MY HEART, THE OLD MAN CALLED OUT TO ME.

I RAN IN EC STASY

THE STRINGS ARE COMING OFF
I'LL REPAIR IT AND THEN SEND IT TO YOU.
MY CHEST SEEMED TO BE FULL OF CONFU-SION:


I SIMPLY NODDED.
コクン!

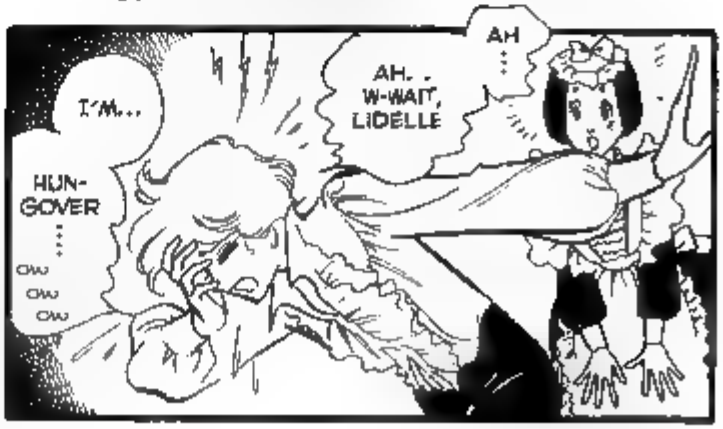

THAT MOMENT TOO
HAP-PENED JUST ONCE.


JUST ONCE...
OH!
MAS-TER AS--
MASTER ASLAN, WHERE ARE YOU!
HUH ?
YOU'RE NOT IN BED?!
MAS-TER!
MASTER ASLAN?

PLEASE WAKE UP!
WE-WERE YOU HERE UNTIL MORNING?!
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU GOT SICK!
MM?

AH, LIDEL-LE.
GOOD MORN-ING.

IT'S NOT A GOOD MORN-ING!
!!

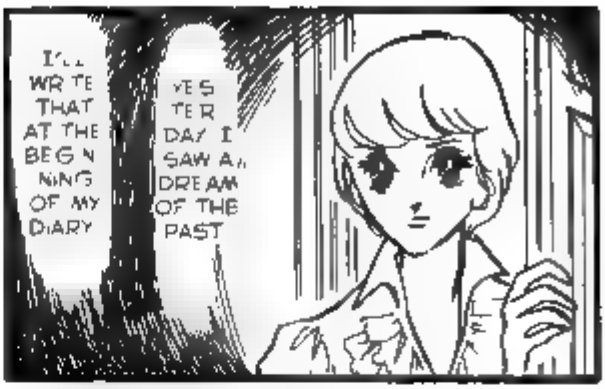

AH
AH. . W-WAIT, LIDELLE
I'M...
HUN-GOVER
OW
OW
OW

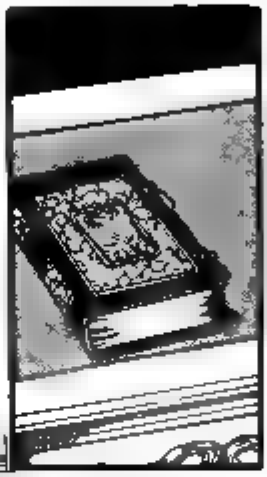
がば
THAT'S A LIE!
IT'S NO USE NOW
I'M DEAD.
HUM, IF THERE'S ANY WAY I CAN HELP IT.
OH, GOSH, IS IT THAT BAD?!
WAIT! PLEASE DON'T BE MAD, LIDELLE!
PLEASE! AREN'T WE GOING TOGETHER TO PARIS? WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP ME PREPARE MY LUGGAGE?
HUMPH!

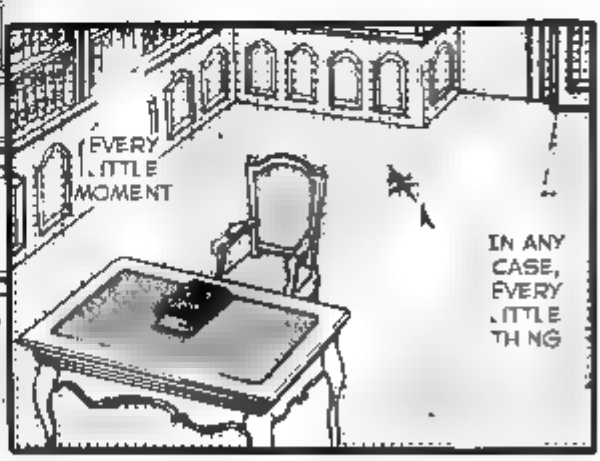
WHAT AWAITED ASLAN IN PARIS WAS

THE MEETING WITH A WOMAN THAT WOULD CHANGE HIS DESTINY

AND LOVE.



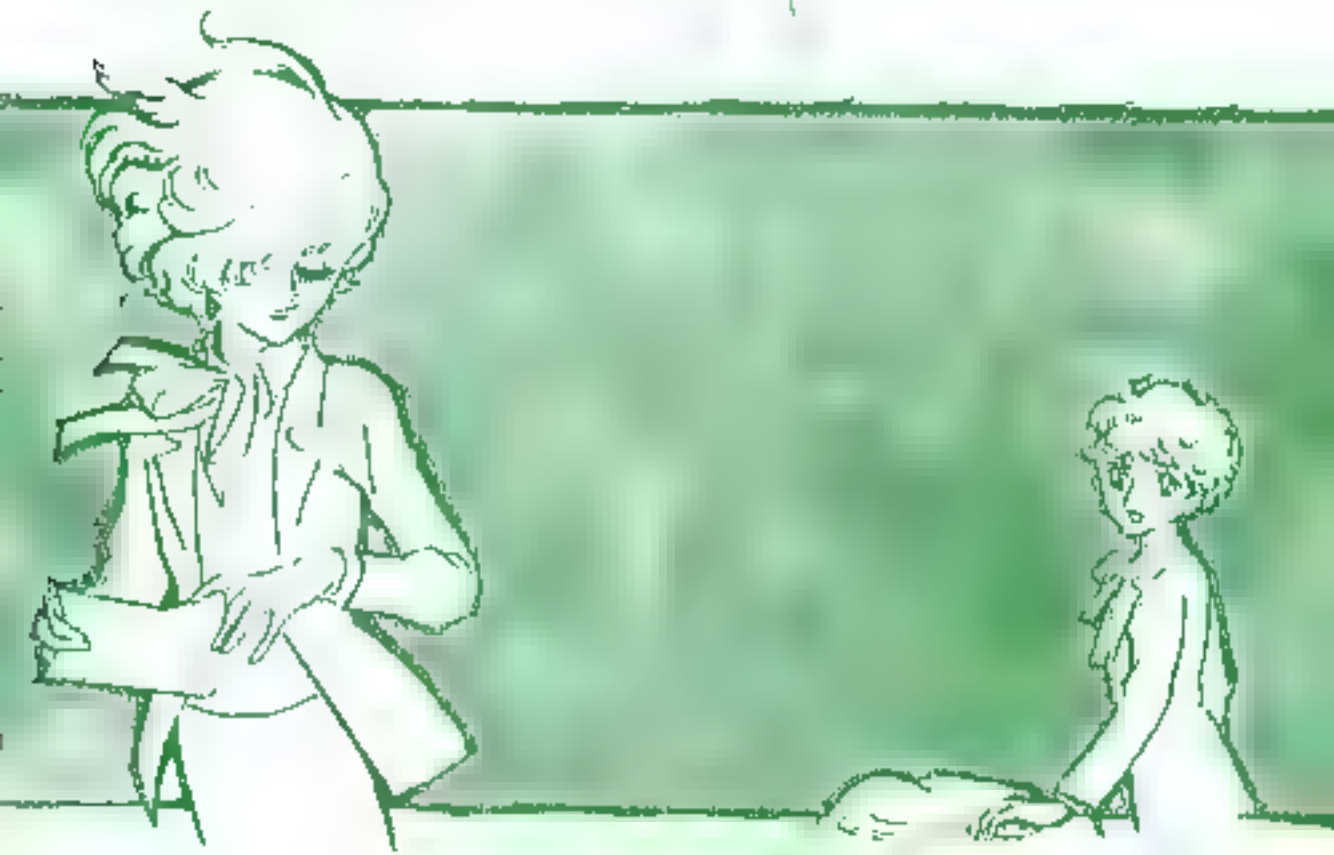




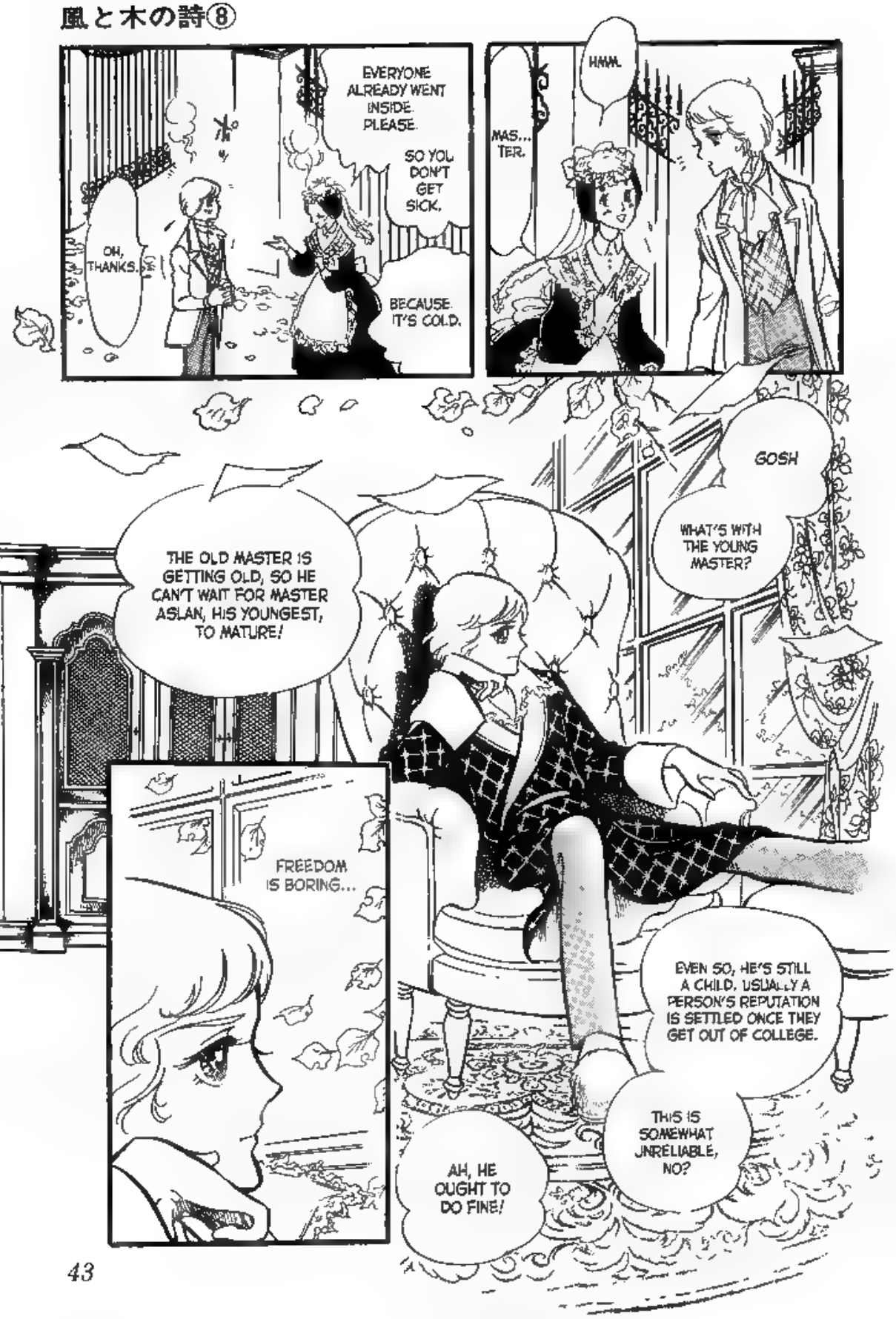
Translator's Note

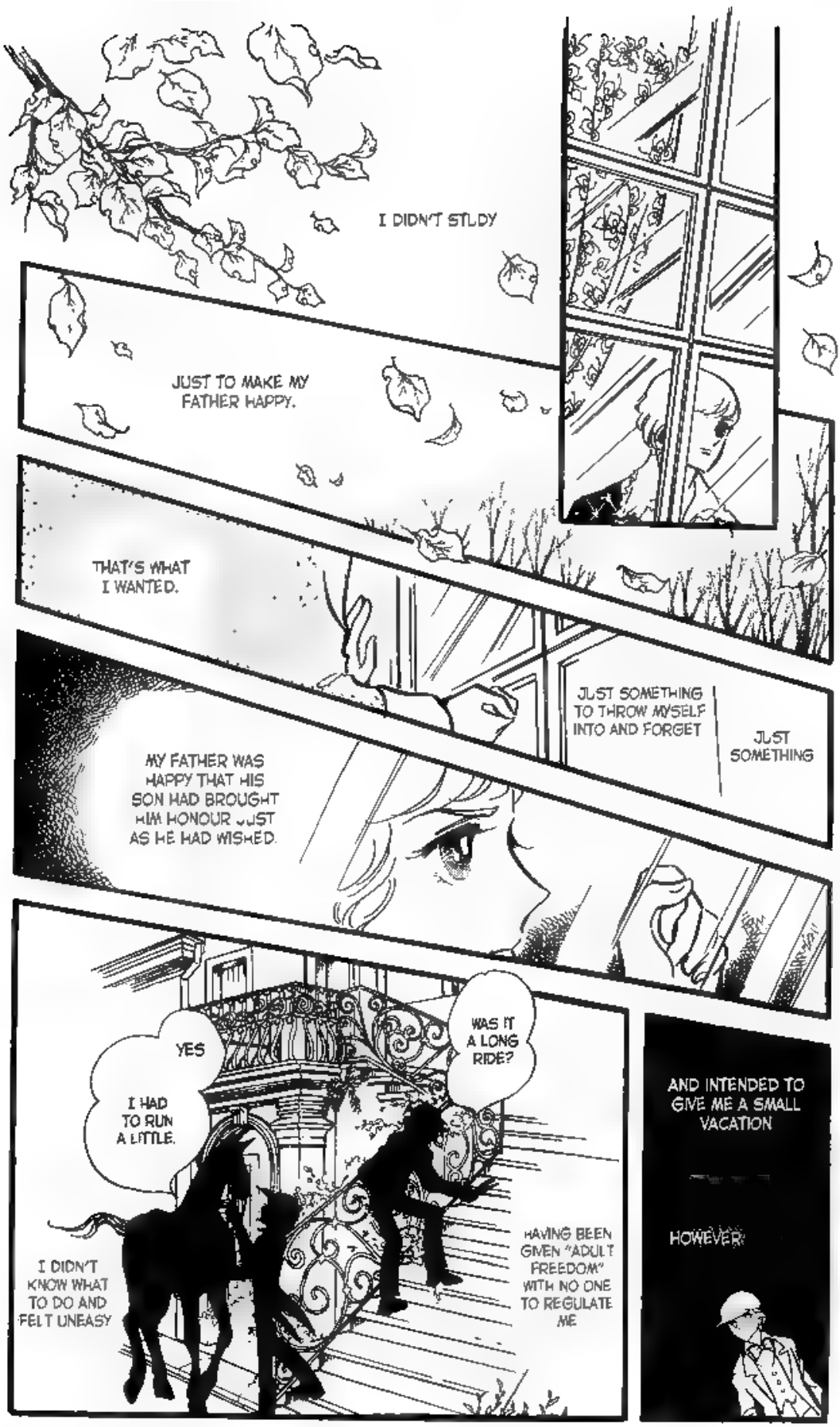
IN THE NEXT FEW CHAPTERS THE AUTHOR WILL PLAY AROUND WITH A WORK KNOWN IN JAPANESE AS "TSUBAKI-HIME" (LITERALLY CAMELLIA-PRINCESS) IN SEVERAL WAYS.

IN ENGLISH THIS WORK HAS DIFFERENT NAMES, DEPENDING ON THE MEDIUM:
THE BOOK IS NAMED "THE LADY OF THE CAMELLIAS", AND THE OPERA BASED ON IT IS NAMED "LA TRAVIATA". WE HAD TO CHANGE THE NAME WE USED ACCORDING TO THE CONTEXT WHERE IT APPEARS. BUT DO KEEP IN MIND THAT THESE TWO WORKS ARE RELATED



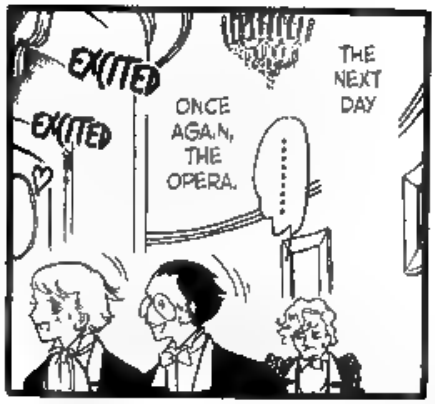
★ *TRIBUTE, AS IN THE TRIBUTE PAID BY TENANT FARMERS TO THEIR LAND OWNERS*


EVERYONE ALREADY WENT INSIDE. PLEASE.
SO YOU DON'T GET SICK.
OH, THANKS.
BECAUSE IT'S COLD.
HMM.
MAS... TER.
GOSH
WHAT'S WITH THE YOUNG MASTER?
THE OLD MASTER IS GETTING OLD, SO HE CAN'T WAIT FOR MASTER ASLAN, HIS YOUNGEST, TO MATURE!
FREEDOM IS BORING...
EVEN SO, HE'S STILL A CHILD. USUALLY A PERSON'S REPUTATION IS SETTLED ONCE THEY GET OUT OF COLLEGE.
THIS IS SOMEWHAT UNRELIABLE, NO?
AH, HE OUGHT TO DO FINE!


I DIDN'T STUDY
JUST TO MAKE MY FATHER HAPPY.
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED.
JUST SOMETHING TO THROW MYSELF INTO AND FORGET
JUST SOMETHING
MY FATHER WAS HAPPY THAT HIS SON HAD BROUGHT HIM HONOUR JUST AS HE HAD WISHED.
WAS IT A LONG RIDE?
YES
I HAD TO RUN A LITTLE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO AND FELT UNEASY
HAVING BEEN GIVEN "ADULT FREEDOM" WITH NO ONE TO REGULATE ME
AND INTENDED TO GIVE ME A SMALL VACATION
HOWEVER

EVEN SO!
IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE, UNTIL NOW HE'S BEEN AWAY FROM SOCIAL LIFE.
DON'T SAY THAT, WATTS!
WHAT A LUXURY!!
YOU'RE BORED?!
WHAT'S SO BORING ABOUT HAVING MONEY AND TIME AND YOUR COMFORTABLE LIFE!!
I'LL SHOW YOU! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO HAVE A PROPER SOCIAL LIFE!
IN MY CASE, EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE MONEY OR TIME, I AT LEAST DON'T FORGET HOW TO HAVE A GOOD TIME!
WATTS!
WEASEL
IN EXCHANGE, I REQUEST WAR FUNDS. WAR FUNDS!
IN...
GUK
NEXT A CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT
ZZZZZZZZ
YAWN
HOW ABOUT WE BUY SOME TICKETS? THERE ARE GOOD PERFORMANCES IN THERE!
WE SHOULD START WITH SOMETHING LIKE THE OPERA.
WELL THEN!
SOMB!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
HOLD ON!
YOU TWO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING LISTENING TO THE MUSIC SO SERIOUSLY?
Is there anything else to do?
Shudder
THIS HERE! THIS IS A SOCIAL MEETING PLACE!


EXCITED
EXCITED
THE NEXT DAY
ONCE AGAIN, THE OPERA.

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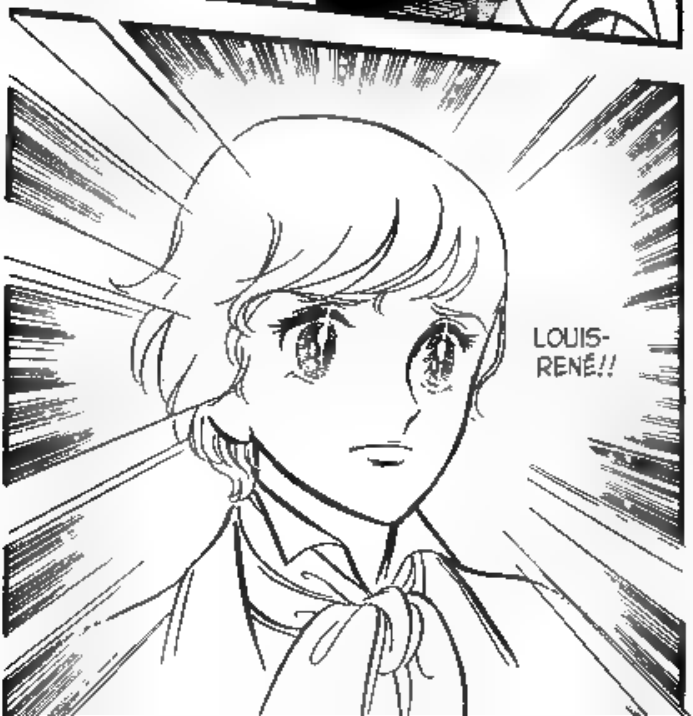
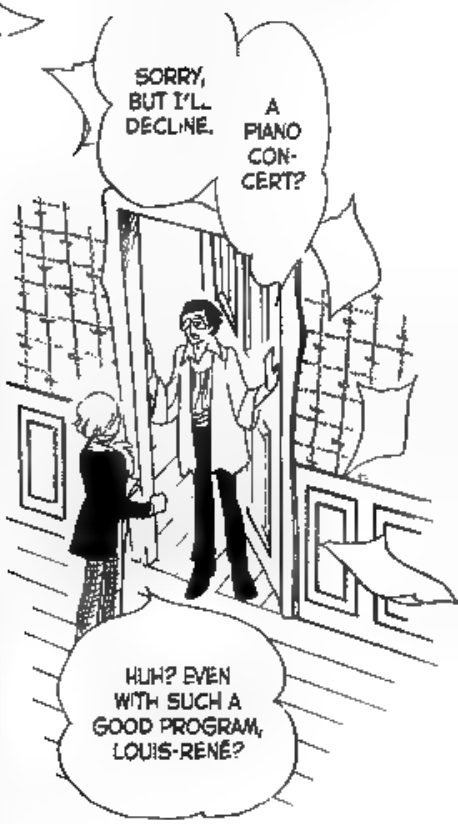
I-I GOT IT, BE QUIET!
BESIDES, AREN'T YOU BEING RUDE TO THE LADIES!
SUCH TRAGEDY IT IS FOR YOU TO BE ENGROSSED IN THE MUSIC WITHOUT WOOING NOT EVEN ONE GIRL!

I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A LISTENER, I WANT TO BECOME A PERFORMER.
I'M DONE WITH THIS.
SORRY, BUT


LOUIS-RENÉ!!


SORRY, BUT I'LL DECLINE.
A PIANO CONCERT?
HUH? EVEN WITH SUCH A GOOD PROGRAM, LOUIS-RENÉ?

I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!
ASLAN...
DON'T APOLOGIZE..
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR!
ASLAN!
THE DAILY CHANGES KEEP PILING UP
AND EACH PATH IS ALREADY DIVERGING.
EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO LISTENING TO MUSIC
IT'S NATURAL THAT DIFFERENCES WOULD APPEAR BETWEEN YOU, WHO HAS A PURPOSE, AND ME, WHO DOESN'T.

ASLAN?!
THAT'S OK!
DON'T BE AFRAID!

HEY!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
BY MYSELF
YOU INTEND TO OPEN A PATH IN THIS WORLD WITH YOUR MUSIC,
I WILL FIND FOR SURE

I'LL FIND IT AND SHOW IT TO YOU!
THE PATH THAT
I'LL FIND IT...

OF COURSE!
NOT.

ARE YOU SURE WE'RE ALIVE?

FRANÇOIS!

FRAN-ÇOIS.
FRAN
THE ECSTASY AND ANXIETY ONE FEELS IN "BEING ALIVE"
IDIOT!
DON'T CRY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS! PEOPLE WILL MISUN-DERSTAND!
AHA-HAHA-HAHA-HAHA.
HA-HA!
AH
YOUR HEART CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO BE.
SHUT UP, SHUT UP
SHUT UP!
YO, WATTS! THAT'S A CUTE ONE YOU CAUGHT!
DON'T MAKE HER CRY!
AT A TIME LIKE THAT. .
THAT'S WHEN I MET HER.

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GOOD EVENING!
AH! ASLAN, WHAT A NICE EVENING!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THAT SILK HAT?
ASLAN
SHALL WE GO TO THE DANCE IN THE PLAZA?
SORRY, I'M IN A HURRY TODAY!
AH, WHAT A BUMMER!
IS IT A DATE WITH FRANÇOIS AGAIN?

Y-YES.

YOUR ASLAN. YOU SAY?

ARE YOU SAYING MY ASLAN IS VULGAR?! BE CAREFUL WITH WHAT YOU SAY!

FOR A YOUNG NOBLE TO DO SOMETHING SO VULGAR...

HUMPH, A BAD INFLUENCE FROM THAT RUFFIAN PIG FRANÇOIS.

KYAA! DID YOU SEE? THAT UNUSUAL WINK WAS SO DREAMY!

HE OCCASIONALLY SHOWED HIS FACE IN THE LOW-TOWN.

"THE SON OF VISCOUNT BATTOUR, WHO OWNS A MANSION IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF PARIS. HE JUST TURNED 18 THIS JUNE.

IN ADDITION TO BEING HANDSOME, HE IS ALSO BRILLIANT"

WITH THIS, HE HAD THE THREE MAIN REQUISITES THAT MADE HIM BE A YOUNG NOBLE EVERYONE YEARNED AFTER

FRANÇOIS!
WAH!
SORRY!
FRAN-ÇOIS! ARE YOU THERE!
ARE YOU READY? WE'RE OUT OF TIME!
CAN I COME IN?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME BY THAT GIRLY NAME. I WON'T ANSWER TO IT.
FRAN-ÇOIS?!

ASLAN ?!
HEY, ASLAN W... WHAT'S WRONG?!
.....
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S ASLAN...
DID THEY GET IT WRONG? I DO LOOK LIKE A THUG...
GU...
GI... GIMME A BREAK!

AH! YOU! BASTARD! YOU WERE PLAYING AROUND WITH ME!
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KUKUKU
IS MY SEMI-NUDE THAT SHOCKING!
BUT WHY DID YOU PASS OUT!
YEP! I WAS TIRED OF YOUR BEING LATE WITH THIS AND THAT EVERY TIME I INVITE YOU TO THE OPERA!
I CAN SCARE YOU ONCE IN A WHILE, YES?
DON'T FORGET YOUR GILET*! IT'S THE OPERA!
PUTTING MY CLOTHES ON DOESN'T TAKE BUT A MINUTE.
I'M FORCIBLY DRAGGED ALONG AND SERVE AS YOUR GUARDIAN.
LET ME DO AT LEAST THIS.
WHICH ONE OF US?
TCHE, MISCHIEVOUS.

OH STOP, DON'T EVEN TELL ME ANYTHING ELSE!
THE PRIMADONNA S MARY NIKISCH... AND THEN
EVEN YOU OUGHT TO LIKE THIS ONE.
THE PASSIONATE LOVE BETWEEN THE PROSTITUTE VIOLETTA VALÉRY AND THE YOUNG ALFREDO GERMONT!
A PIECE BY VERDI, "LA TRAVIATA".
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF TODAY'S OPERA, FRANÇOIS?
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SHUT UP! AT OUR AGE IT ISN'T DIGNIFIED TO USE THOSE NAMES!
EVEN IF YOU TELL ME NOT TO USE IT, IT'S NOT THAT EASY TO STOP CALLING YOU THE NAME I USED DURING OUR TIME AT THE ACADEMY!
DON'T USE THAT NAME !!
BUT FRANÇOIS, THEY CAN'T HELP GETTING FAT WHEN TRAINING THEIR VOICES.
TO BEGIN WITH, IT'S A TURN OFF HAVING THE PRETTY GIRL WHO DIED FROM CONSUMPTION BEING PLAYED BY THAT HUNDRED TON FATSO!

THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF CALL NG THAT WON'T HURT THE DIGNITY OF YOUR SENIORS!
WATTS-KUN, WATTS-SAN, WATTS-SENPAI!
WELL, WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU THEN?
3 YEARS OLDER

DURING THE INTERMISSION OF VERDI'S "LA TRAVIATA".
SHE GLIDED DOWN THE STAIRS.
IN PARIS
AT THE OPERA
I WILL NEVER FORGET IT.

MY CHEST WAS PIERCED IN THAT MOMENT
A PAIN AS IF IT HAD BEEN STABBED.

W-WHAT WAS THIS?! IT'S AS IF MY CHEST WAS BE NG SQUEEZED TIGHT...
HEY, YOU! ARE YOU LISTEN NG?!
AH...
ASLAN!

DEAR GUESTS.
PLEASE GET BACK TO YOUR SEATS.
WAIT! THE SECOND ACT IS STARTING!
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH YOU!
?
AH... NO... I... HUM...
I REMEMBERED I HAD AN APPOINTMENT...
AND PANICKED... ha ha ha

YOUNG ALFREDO'S FATHER SUGGESTED TO THE PROSTITUTE VIOLETTA THAT SHE "BREAK UP WITH HER SON FOR THE SAKE OF HIS FUTURE".
VIOLETTA, AWARE OF HER DISEASE, RESTRAINED HER HEART BURNING WITH LOVE, AND WITH A NOD PROMISED THE FATHER SHE WOULD END HER RELATIONSHIP WITH ALFREDO.
OH GOSH.
IF I DO THIS I CAN PICTURE THE WHITE FACE OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN SO CLOSE SHE SHE'S GOING TO KISS ME.
WHAT THE HECK!
IT'S BEST NOT TO SEE THE REALITY
THAT DRAGS DOWN MY BEAUTIFUL IMAGINATION.

WHERE S SHE...
THERE'S NO WAY A PERSON L KE THAT WOULD BE LOST N THE CROWD
SHE OUGHT TO STAND OUT...
AH!
HOW LUCKY!

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AH
.....

CLAP
CLAP
OH...
OH... IS IT OVER?
W- WHA- WHAT HAP- PENED!

WHO WAS HE?
THAT MAN, WHO.

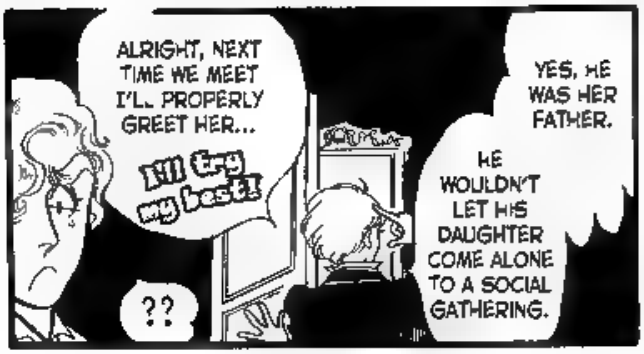
.....
HUH... HEY! ARE YOU...

BUT HER VOICE WAS QUITE GOOD.
AH, WHAT A SHAME, THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL WAS CARRIED AWAY BY THE DREAM, HUH.

AAAH! I AM!
AH...
ASLAN BATTOUR!! IF YOU'RE CONCIOUS, ACT LIKE IT!

HE'S HER GUARDIAN!
THAT'S IT!!
AHAHA-HAHA!
YES, THAT'S IT!

EVEN I'LL GET TIRED OF IT, YOU KNOW...
GOOD GRIEF, DON'T DO THINGS THAT WILL WORRY YOUR GUARDIAN HERE.


ALRIGHT, NEXT TIME WE MEET I'LL PROPERLY GREET HER...
I'll try my best!
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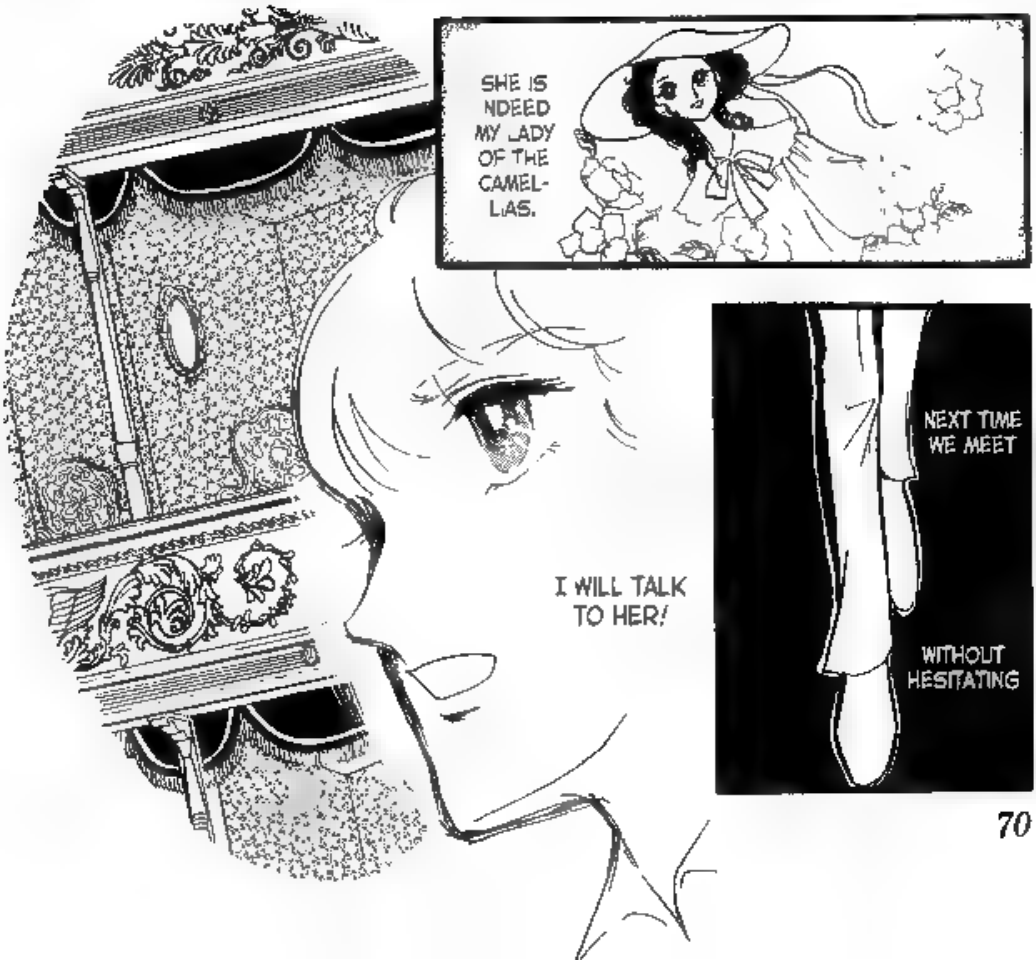
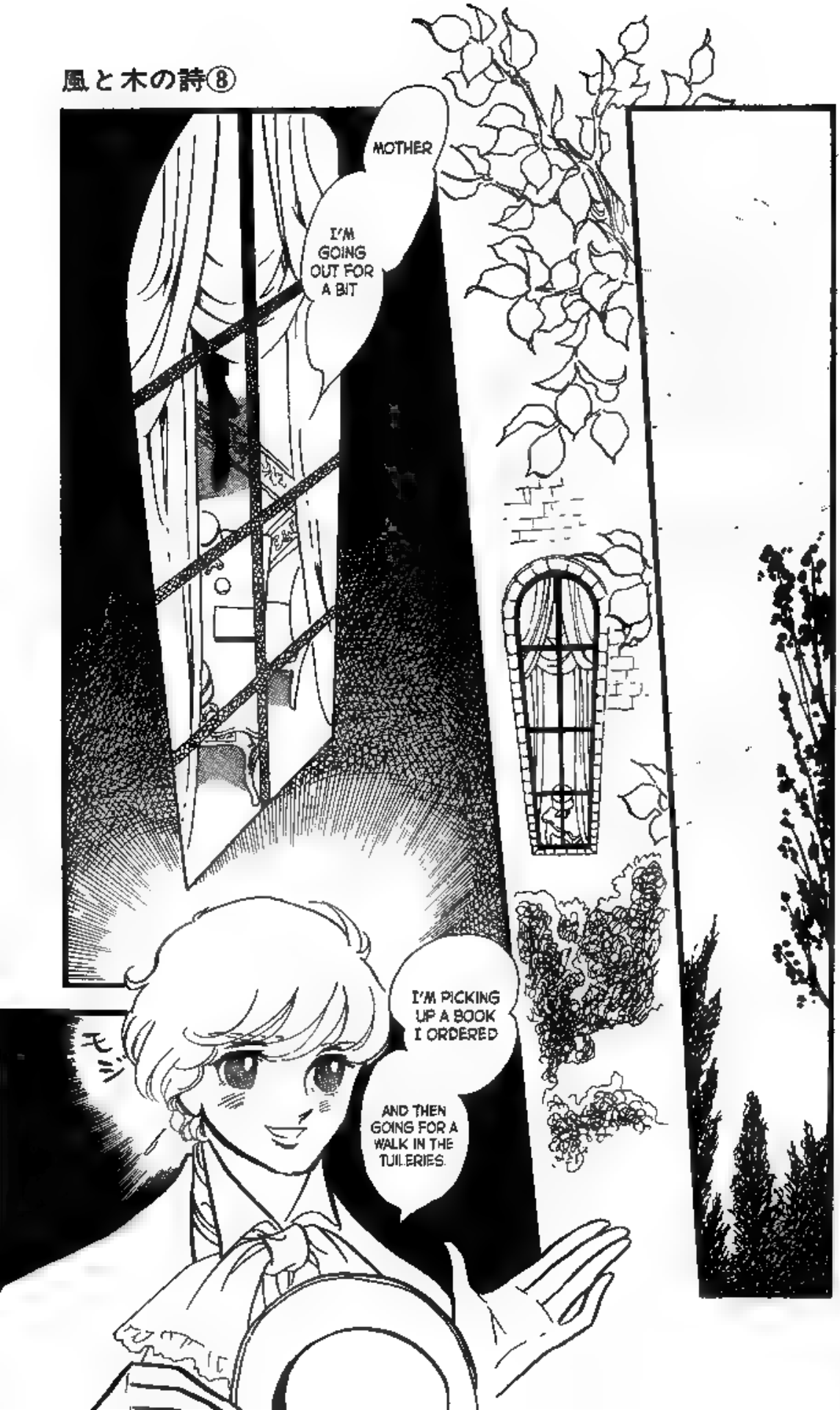
YES, HE WAS HER FATHER.
HE WOULDN'T LET HIS DAUGHTER COME ALONE TO A SOCIAL GATHERING.


SHE IS INDEED MY LADY OF THE CAMELLIAS.
I WILL TALK TO HER!
NEXT TIME WE MEET
WITHOUT HESITATING


MOTHER
I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT
I'M PICKING UP A BOOK I ORDERED
AND THEN GOING FOR A WALK IN THE TUILERIES.
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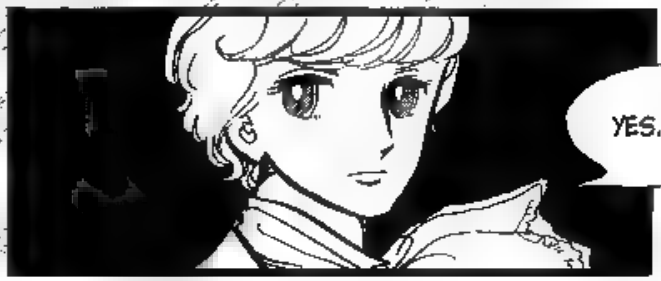
HUM... WELL...
OH, AGAIN? YOU'VE BEEN GOING OUT QUITE A BIT LATELY.
EVEN THOUGH YOU USED TO LIKE SILENTLY READING AT HOME.
WELL THEN!
YES.
HE'S LEARNING HOW TO SOCIALISE, IT'S NO PROBLEM. IT'S GOOD FOR HIM TO MINGLE AND ABSORB WHAT HE SEES.
SOMEONE WHO GRADUATED ONE YEAR EARLY HAD NO TIME TO HAVE FUN. HE OUGHT TO GET THAT TIME BACK NOW.

THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO TELL YOU.
EVERYTHING IS EXPERIENCE. BUT NEVER STRAY AWAY FROM YOUR PATH.

ASLAN!


YES...

THE 1860S PERIOD
WHEN NAPOLEON III'S SECOND EMPIRE WAS BLOSSOMING
TUILERIES PALACE, THE CENTER OF POLITICS, WAS ALSO THE CENTER OF PARIS' HIGH SOCIETY.

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OH, YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH!
AH... GREET-INGS.
OH, GREETINGS! YOU'RE THE SON OF VISCOUNT BATTOUR, CORRECT?

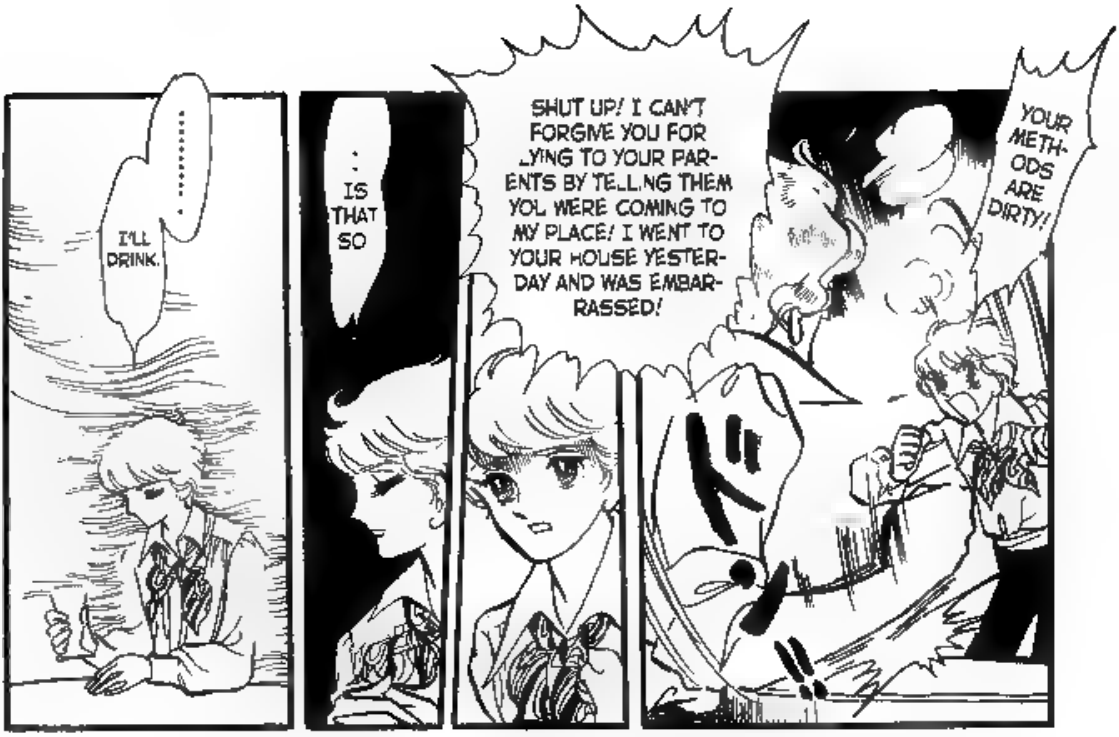
I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU AT THIS PLA--- HUH?
I OFTEN SEE YOU AT THE OPERA, YES? BUT I RARELY SEE YOU AT THE SALON...

LONGCHAMP RACECOURSE
ドドドドドド

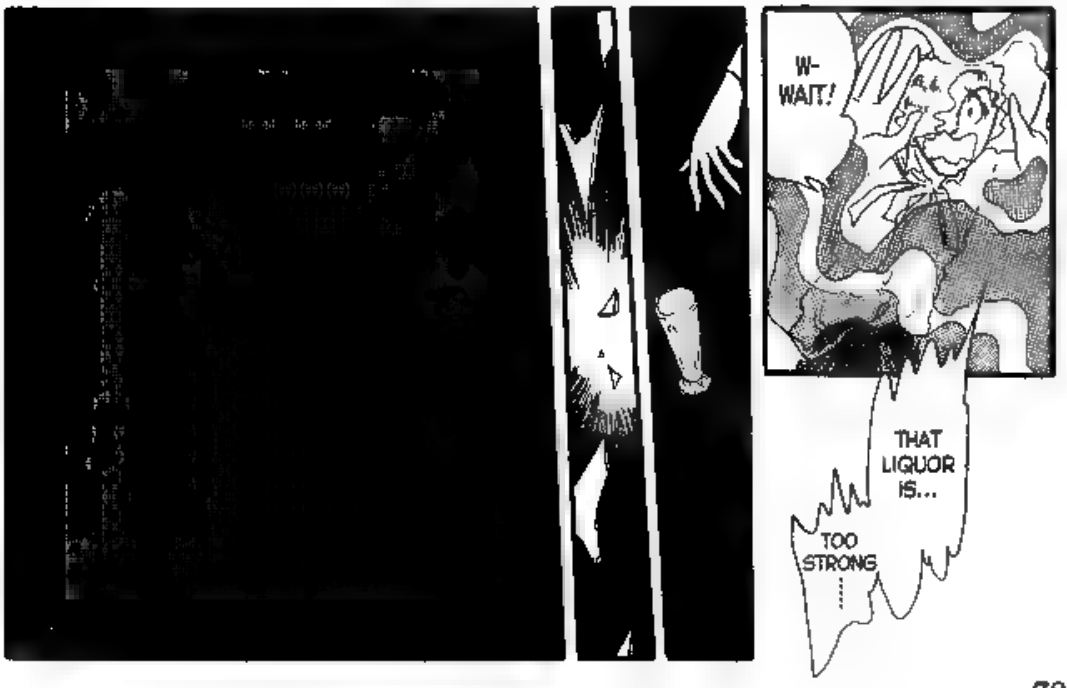
NOT HERE...
THE CROQUET CLUB
THE ART GALLERY
EVEN THE CAFÉ
THE BILLIARDS
EVERY SINGLE SMALL RECITAL
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
BUT DESPITE THAT, I DIDN'T CATCH EVEN A GLIMPSE OF HER.
I TRIED GOING EVERYWHERE I COULD...

I'LL STUDY IN THE EVENING. ONCE I FIND WHO I'M LOOK NG FOR, WE'LL RESUME OUR NORMAL SCHEDULE.
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, M. DURANT. ALL I WANT IS TIME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO BY GOING OUT DURING STUDY HOURS, BUT TO DECEIVE YOUR PARENTS...
ASLAN! HAVE YOU BEEN LYING TO ME?!
HEEEY!
ASLAN!
FRANÇOIS!
BE WARNED, I'M HAVING YOU SPEND TIME WITH ME UNTIL IT'S TIME TO GO HOME!
I'M NOT LETTING YOU ESCAPE TODAY!
I FINALLY GOT YOU! YOU RASCAL, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND LATELY!

WATTS-SENPAI!
I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME THAT! YOU GET ONE MORE CUP AS PUNISHMENT!
NO, FRANÇOIS!
I CAN'T DRINK ANY MORE!
A WELL-MANNERED YOUNG LORD... ARE YOU OK WITH YOUR MUMMY GIVING YOU A SPANKING?
IF YOU DON'T, I WON'T TAKE YOU BACK HOME THIS EVENING.
THE REASON WHY YOU WENT AS FAR AS GOING BEHIND YOUR PARENTS' BACK TO GO TO THE SALON YOU SUPPOSEDLY HATE SO MUCH!
FRANÇOIS...
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, TELL ME YOUR REASON...
OH...! YOU SAID IT! ISN'T IT WONDERFUL. LET'S GET EVEN. YOU'RE AN ADULT MAN WHO THREW SAND EVEN AT THE EYES OF HIS FRIEND.
WATTS!
WHAT'S WITH THAT TALK!


I'LL DRINK.
IS THAT SO
SHUT UP! I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU FOR LYING TO YOUR PARENTS BY TELLING THEM YOU WERE COMING TO MY PLACE! I WENT TO YOUR HOUSE YESTERDAY AND WAS EMBARRASSED!
YOUR METHODS ARE DIRTY!

I'M SORRY...
WATTS...


W-WAIT!
THAT LIQUOR IS...
TOO STRONG

WELL, IT'S PROBABLY JUST A FRUITLESS UNREQUITED LOVE.
IF YOU HAD LEFT IT TO ME, IT'D BE A SIMPLE THING. I'M A VETERAN AT STUFF LIKE THAT! I CAN HELP!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SPEAK TO ME RIGHT AWAY ABOUT THAT?
IDIOT.
I'LL SEARCH FOR THAT BEAUTIFUL GIRL.
BECAUSE IT'S PROOF THAT YOU'RE HUMAN.
BUT IN ANY CASE, IT'S SOMETHING TO BE HAPPY FOR!
THEY BOUGHT THAT BOX THAT DAY.
I SHOULD KNOW RIGHT AWAY IF I ASK THE OPERA'S MANAGER.
I REALLY AM CRAZY.
AH... GOOD GRIEF
Ut introitus Xerxis turpis ac foedus discessus.
AND THAT DIDN'T EVEN OCCUR TO ME.
I JUST KEPT ON WAITING FOR A FORTUITOUS MEETING AND BROODING OVER IT EVERY DAY

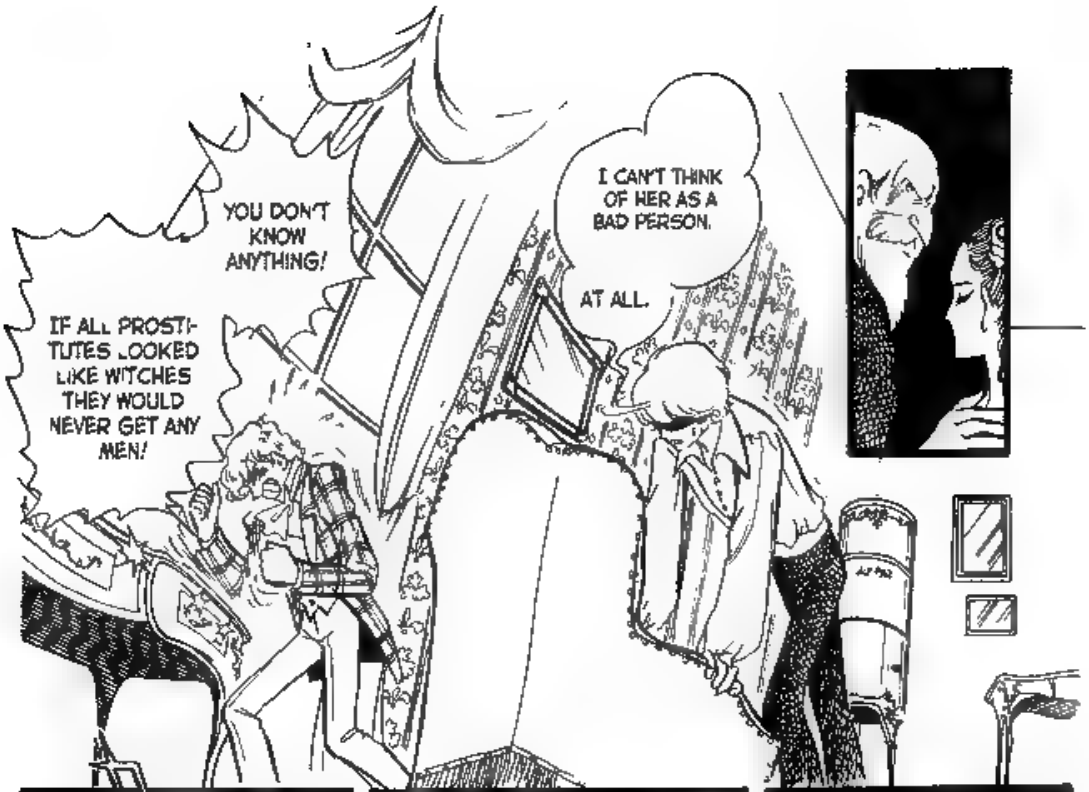
AH, WATTS! HOW DID IT GO?
SHE...
IT'S NO GOOD, ASLAN. GIVE IT UP.
IT'S A PITY, BUT SHE'S NOT APPRO-PRIATE FOR YOU.

... HUH? WATTS, BUT OF COURSE!
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH A LADY.
BUT FROM NOW ON I'LL DO MY BEST TO BECOME A GENTLEMAN!
ガガガ
.....
YOU IDIOT...
YOU BECOME A GENTLEMAN AND THEN WHAT?
SHE'S NO LADY!
WHA--
SHE IS...
A COCOTTE!

COCOTTE...!!
EVEN YOU
OUGHT TO KNOW THAT WORD.
OH GOOD. EXPLAINING IT TO YOU WOULD BE A PROBLEM.
COCOTTE
A WOMAN WHO SELLS HER LOVE TO MEN.
SHE'S... THAT.
.....
ALL I KNOW ABOUT HER IS HOW SHE LOOKS.
EXPLAIN IT TO ME IN A WAY I CAN UNDER-STAND.
.....
NO.

I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER...
WATTS
IDIOT! GIVE IT UP! LIKE SHE'D EVER BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE SON OF A RESPECTABLE FAMILY!
ASLAN...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE.
NAH NO!
HER BIRTH, OR SOCIAL STATUS, OR EVEN HER NAME..
THOSE WERE UNNECESSARY TO KNOW
AT FIRST SIGHT...
I TRUSTED HER AT FIRST SIGHT...
YES! I TRUSTED HER!
THOUGH SHE BEHAVED LIKE AN ADULT AT THE OPERA, SHE WAS STILL A YOUNG GIRL HIDING HER YAWNS.
THE ELEGANT LILY AND THE PRETTY
HER FRANK BLACK EYES COMBINE BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.

I AM ABLE TO SEE HER TRUE FORM
THE GIRL WHO S LIKE THE WHEAT RUSTLING IN THE SUN...


YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
IF ALL PROSTITUTES LOOKED LIKE WITCHES THEY WOULD NEVER GET ANY MEN!
I CAN'T THINK OF HER AS A BAD PERSON.
AT ALL.

YOU'RE JUST BEING HONEYED UP. YOU'RE THE TYPE THAT WILL JUST GET HONEYED UP AND WILL BE THROWN AWAY WITHOUT EVEN GETTING A KISS!
YOU'RE A COMPLETE SUCKER!

WHA...
HOW CAN A GREENHORN LIKE YOU GET HER INTO BED?
ON TOP OF THAT, SHE'S A COURTESAN.
THEY'RE THE HIGHEST RANKING OF PROSTITUTES, MEANING THAT VERY INFLUENTIAL MEN BECOME THEIR PATRONS AND LET THEM INDULGE IN EVERY SINGLE LUXURY

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GASHAAAAN!
HON HON HON
IF IT COMES DOWN TO THIS, I MIGHT HAVE TO USE BRUTE FORCE...
HE WON'T EVEN LISTEN TO THE ADVICE OF HIS SENIOR?

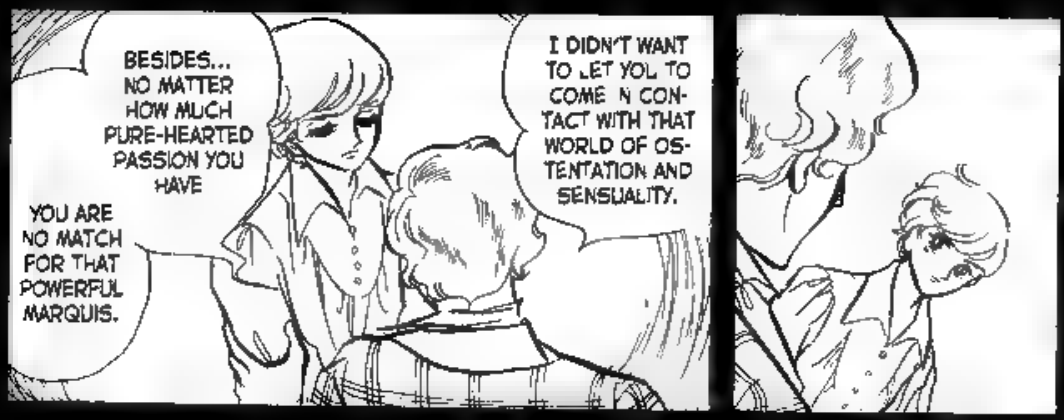
DON'T GET UP!
IF YOU DON'T PLAN ON APOLOGIZING, DON'T GET UP!
CRAWL TO THE DOOR LIKE THAT AND SEE YOURSELF OUT! I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU EVER AGAIN!
FOR ONCE, YOU...

IN THE END, I HAVE TO GIVE IN.
...MY BAD!
YOU REALLY ARE LIKE A YOUNG KID.
NOT HOLDING BACK YOUR TEARS.

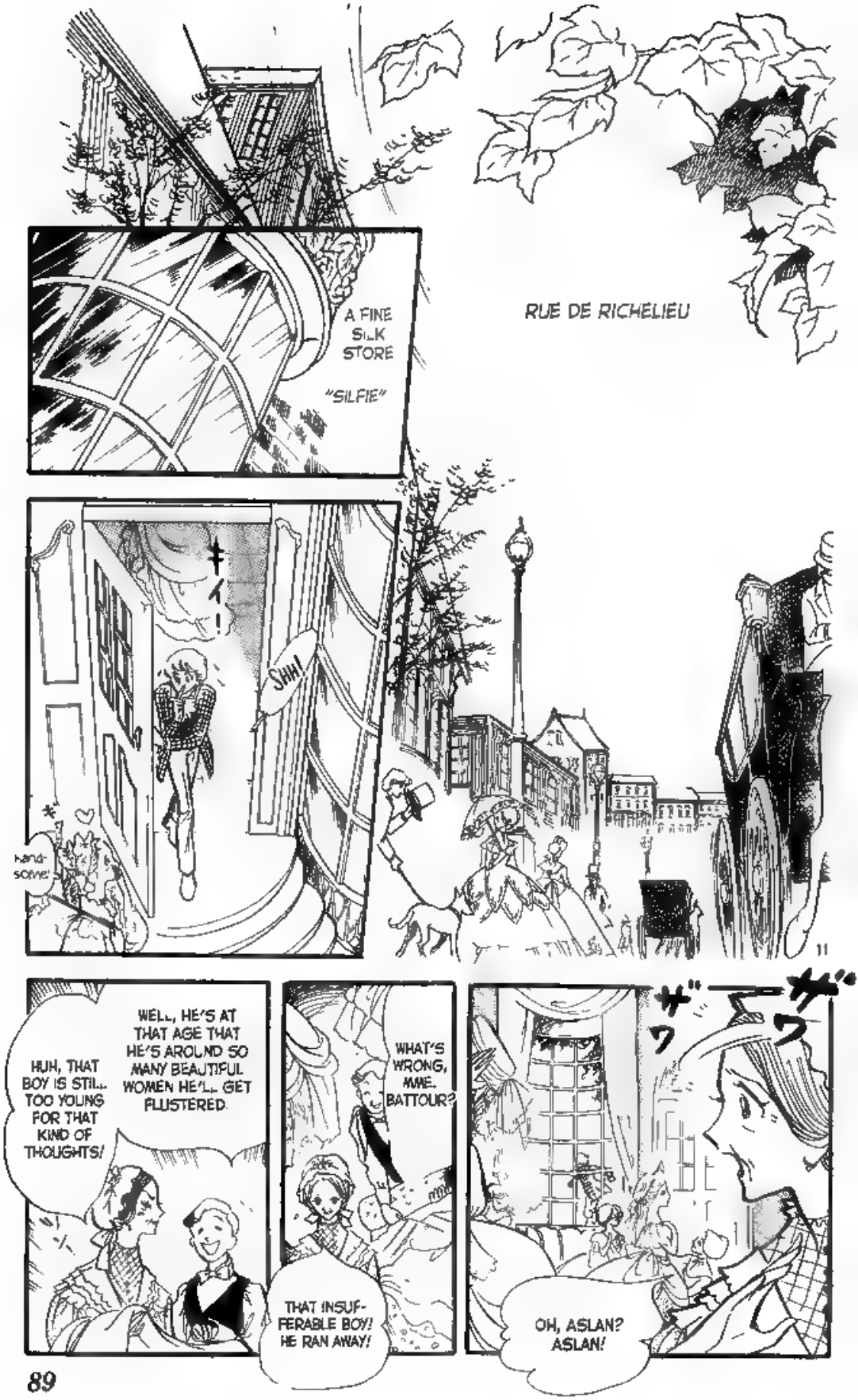
ASLAN

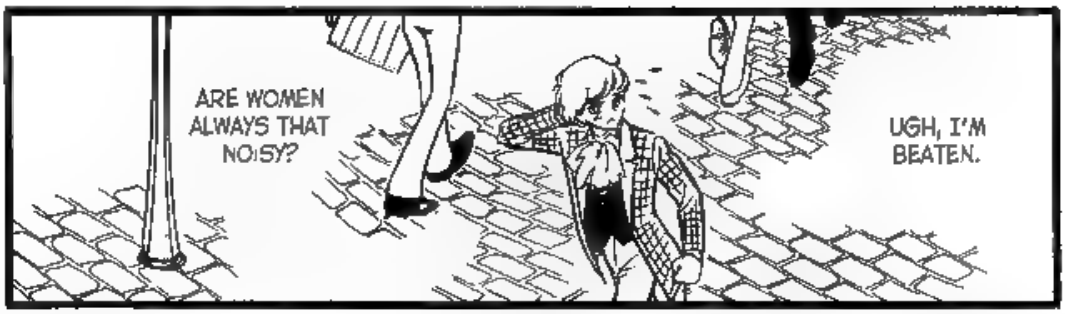
LIKE A GROWN MAN COULD EVER GO TO THE ENTRANCE ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES.

CAME UP WITH AN AMAZING UNREASONABLE DEMAND.


BESIDES... NO MATTER HOW MUCH PURE-HEARTED PASSION YOU HAVE
YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR THAT POWERFUL MARQUIS.
I DIDN'T WANT TO LET YOU TO COME IN CONTACT WITH THAT WORLD OF OSTENTATION AND SENSUALITY.

.....
YES, THE OLD MAN
WHO WAS WITH YOUR MAIDEN THAT OTHER TIME.
THAT'S MARQUIS GEORGES-LOUIS GARGERE AND
SHE IS HIS MISTRESS.
SHE'S CALLED PAIVA.

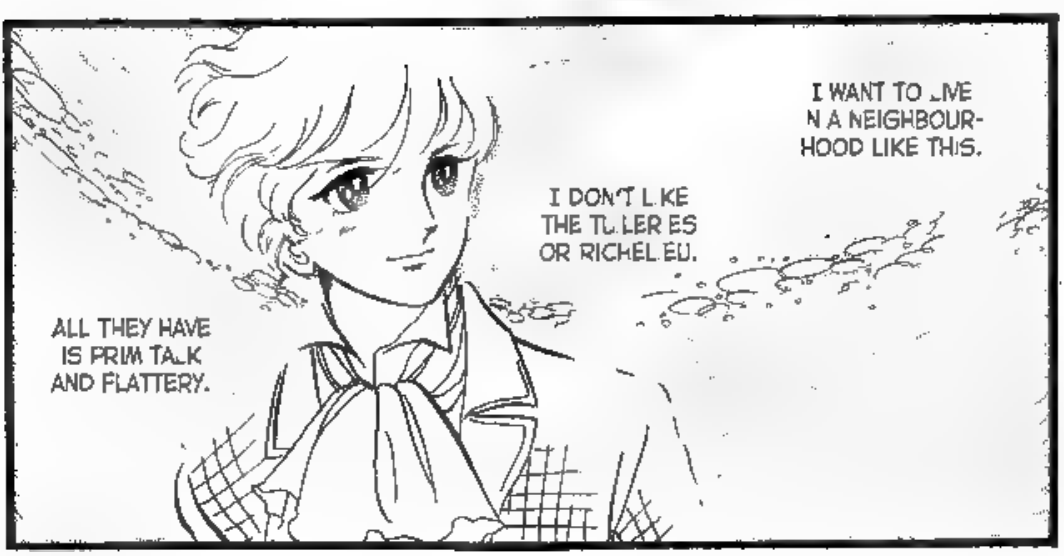

A FINE SILK STORE
"SILFIE"
RUE DE RICHELIEU
SHH!
handsome!
11
HUH, THAT BOY IS STILL TOO YOUNG FOR THAT KIND OF THOUGHTS!
WELL, HE'S AT THAT AGE THAT HE'S AROUND SO MANY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN HE'LL GET FLUSTERED.
WHAT'S WRONG, MME. BATTOUR?
THAT INSUFFERABLE BOY! HE RAN AWAY!
OH, ASLAN? ASLAN!


ARE WOMEN ALWAYS THAT NOISY?
UGH, I'M BEATEN.

YOU GET TO SEE LOTS OF PEOPLE GOING ABOUT THEIR LIVES LIKE THIS.

WHEN ONE GETS AWAY FROM THE MAIN STREET

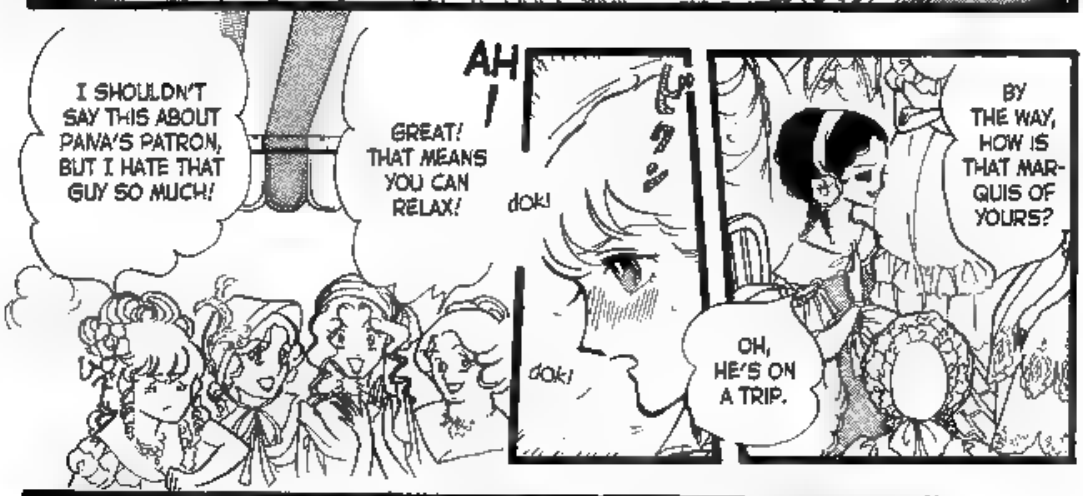
WHAT IS THIS STREET CALLED?

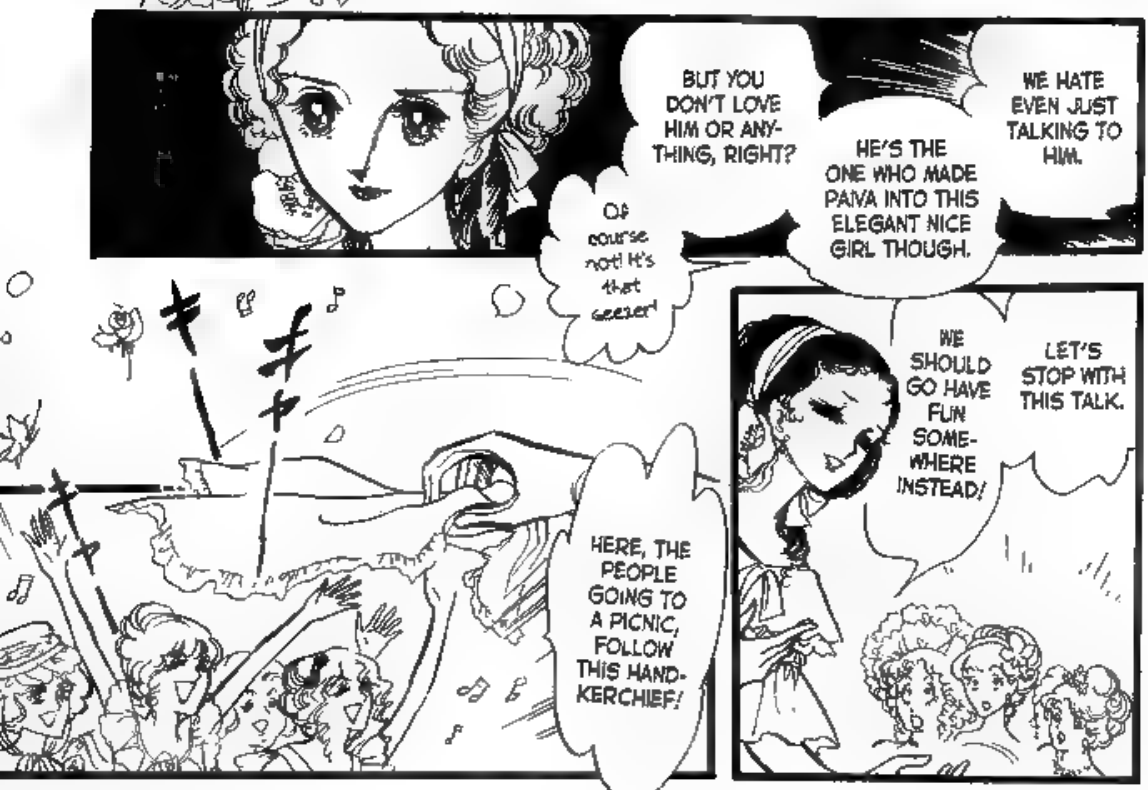

I WANT TO LIVE IN A NEIGHBOURHOOD LIKE THIS.
I DON'T LIKE THE TUILERIES OR RICHELIEU.
ALL THEY HAVE IS PRIM TALK AND FLATTERY.

WELL, AREN'T YOU UPPISH!
THE SHOP KEEPER SURE MUST BE AN IDIOT WHO DOESN'T KNOW A LICK ABOUT CAPITALISM, SELLING THINGS TO PEOPLE WHO CAN BUY THEM!
WE DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENTER THIS STORE, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, MADAME?
GOCHO GOCHO
HUMPH, WHAT IS THIS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR STATUS IS, BUT THE UNREFINED LADY HERE IS YOU!
YOU YOU YOU!
AMALIA!
DON'T BE JEALOUS BECAUSE YOU CAN'T BUY A DRESS LIKE THAT!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN PULL OFF THAT LAVENDER CHIFFON!
PLEASE STOP IT ALREADY, GINA!

★COCODETTE: A NICKNAME GIVEN TO NOBLE LADIES WHO ACTED AND DRESSED LIKE COCOTTES.

SO MANY PROSTI-TUTES...
WERE THE HECK DID THEY EVEN COME FROM?
AMAZ-NG...!


I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS ABOUT PAIVA'S PATRON, BUT I HATE THAT GUY SO MUCH!
GREAT! THAT MEANS YOU CAN RELAX!
AH!
doki
doki
BY THE WAY, HOW IS THAT MAR-QUIS OF YOURS?
OH, HE'S ON A TRIP.


BUT YOU DON'T LOVE HIM OR ANY-THING, RIGHT?
Of course not! It's that geezer!
HE'S THE ONE WHO MADE PAIVA INTO THIS ELEGANT NICE GIRL THOUGH.
WE HATE EVEN JUST TALKING TO HIM.
HERE, THE PEOPLE GOING TO A PICNIC, FOLLOW THIS HAND-KERCHIEF!
WE SHOULD GO HAVE FUN SOME-WHERE INSTEAD!
LET'S STOP WITH THIS TALK.

M-MY LEGS... WON'T MOVE.
I can't Believe it!!
SHE'S COMING THIS WAY! WHAT DO I DO?!
AH!

YOU...
ARE...

MY TONGUE SEEMS TO BE TIED IN A KNOT
AT THE OPERA...
AH...
HMM...
GREETINGS, MONSIEUR.
HAVE WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?
AN ACQUAINTANCE?
INTRODUCE HIM TO US, PAIVA!
OH, WHAT'S THIS!
OH!
HE LOOKS LIKE A STUDENT, THOUGH...
.....
AH... AH! OF COURSE IT IS!
OH, PAIVA...
I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER HIM.
HOW COULD YOU FORGET THE NAME OF SUCH A LOVELY PERSON!
BUT I DO GUESS THAT'S NORMAL WHEN YOU SEE DOZENS OF PEOPLE EVERY DAY...

WAH!
HUH.....
LOOK AT HIM!
BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN INTRODUCED MYSELF TO YOU YET.
ALL WE DID WAS EXCHANGE GLANCES.
SOMETHING...
BUT WHEN WE MADE EYE CONTACT JUST NOW...
DESPITE NEVER EVEN REMEMBERING THE FACES OF PEOPLE WHO USED TO BE REGULAR COSTUMERS.
WHY DID I REMEMBER WITH JUST THAT?
WHY... WHY?
A GUILTY FEELING MADE ME FEEL DEPRESSED.
YES, YES! DO INTRODUCE YOURSELF!
JUDGING FROM YOUR APPEARANCE, YOU'RE RICH, RIGHT.
OH, HOW VULGAR YOU ARE!
ホホホ
アハハハ
ERR...
I'M ASLAN BATTOUR.
TELL US YOUR NAME AND YOUR SOCIAL STATUS!
DESPITE HIS NOT EVEN SAYING ANYTHING TO ME.
WHY, I WONDER?

A MISTER VIS-COUNT!
DID YOU HEAR IT!
KYAA! AMAZING!
A MISTER VISCOUNT IS TALKING TO US!

AH, ERM.
VIS-COUNT

AND YOUR STATUS?

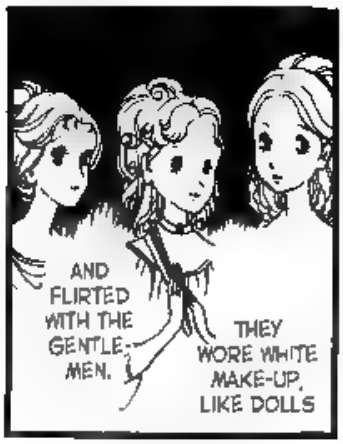
HOW ABOUT THAT! PAIVA SURE IS CHARMING, RIGHT?
HEY, HEY!
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT HER? WHAT MADE YOU FALL HEAD OVER HEELS?
EH... AH...
LUCE!
REMA!
I'M AMALIA!
KYA
SOL-EIL!
WE'LL INTRO-DUCE OUR-SELVES TOO!
WELL THEN, I'M DELIGHTED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, LADY SOLEIL.
SO FORM-AL!
YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH HER AT FIRST SIGHT, WITHOUT EVEN TALKING TO HER, AFTER ALL! YOU POOR BABY!

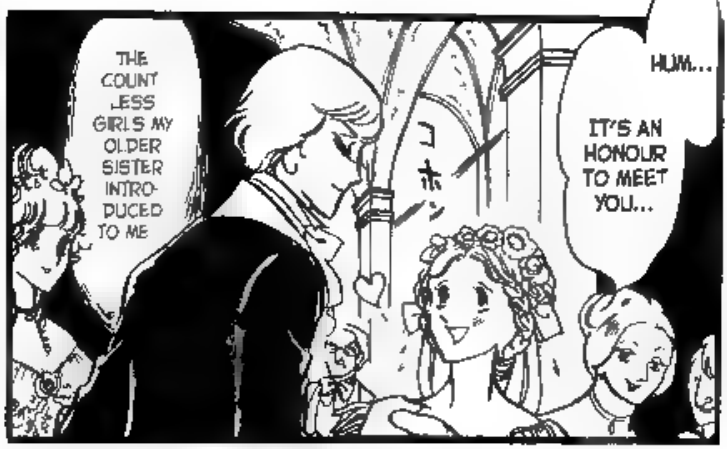
THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO ME RIGHT NOW.
I... LOVE YOU.
EVER SINCE I SAW YOU, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FORGET YOU FOR EVEN ONE MOMENT.

I...

I THINK HE BOUGHT EVEN PAPA'S HEART WITH HIS MONEY!
BRAVO! YOU'LL WANT TO SAY THAT TO THE MARQUIS!
A CONFESSION! HE'S CONFESSING!
AAAH
SO BOLD!
PLEASE COME THIS WAY. LET'S HAVE A TALK JUST THE TWO OF US.
I CAN TELL FROM YOUR DEMEANOUR
YOU'RE A VERY WELL-MANNERED SON FROM A GOOD FAMILY.
SO I LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU.
I'M SERIOUS. ALL I WANTED WAS TO MEET YOU
APPROPRIATE COMPANY FOR AN HONEST PERSON LIKE YOU.
A PERSON LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T REVEAL HIS STATUS
AND CHAT WITH PROSTITUTES IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

I'M HAPPY TO HAVE YOUR FAVOUR
BUT I CAN'T STOP THESE FEELINGS ANY MORE.
BUT I'M UNDER THE CARE OF MARQUIS GARGERE
SHE'D RECIPROCATE MY FEELINGS
IT'S NOT THAT I BELIEVED
MISS PANA!
GOOD-BYE...
THEREFORE I CAN'T RECIPROCATE YOUR FEELINGS.
IT FOUND A PLACE TO GO
THIS PASSION
OH, LIZABETH MUST BE REALLY PROUD!
JUST HAVING A YOUNGER BROTHER THIS HANDSOME IS SOMETHING TO BE ENVIED, BUT IN ADDITION TO THAT YOU'RE ALSO QUITE INTELLIGENT.
I MUST INTRODUCE TO YOU MY NIECE AND DAUGHTER.
I'M DELIGHTED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE...


AND FLIRTED WITH THE GENTLE-MEN.
THEY WORE WHITE MAKE-UP, LIKE DOLLS


THE COUNT LESS GIRLS MY OLDER SISTER INTRO-DUCED TO ME
HUM...
IT'S AN HONOUR TO MEET YOU...

ASLAN!
HEY!
WHERE IS THE LADY IN THAT!
THOSE GIRLS ARE JUST LIKE MY SISTER, LAZY
ALL THEY DO IS SLEEP, EAT, PUT UP A FAÇADE AND CHAT.

SHH!
KEEP QUIET.
WHAT THE HECK, WATTS. WHAT IS--

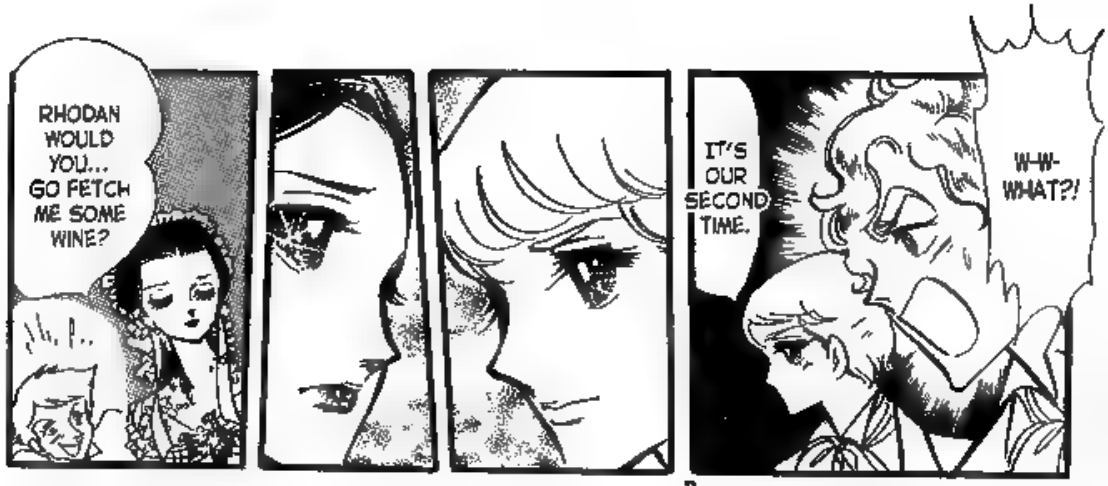
HE CAN'T BE ONE OF MR. ASLAN'S FRIENDS?!
AGH, WHO IS HE?!
SO RUDE!
OOP-SIES!
MY TRUE COLOURS ARE SHOWING!

OVER THERE...
PAIVA!!
IT'S HER!
HA
you scared me
.....!
WHEN IT COMES TO STUFF LIKE THIS, YOU GOTTA DO THINGS PROPERLY!
WHY ARE YOU SUCH A BABY!
IDIOT, DON'T RUSH IN!

THAT GUY GRINNING BESIDE HER, THAT'S AN OLD BOY FROM MY UNIVERSITY
I'LL APPROACH HIM AND GET ON HER GOOD SIDE
AND THEN I'LL INTRODUCE YOU. HOW DOES THAT SOUND? CALM DOWN.
OOH...
YOU SHOULD SEE HER IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THOSE PLAIN WHITE DOLLS!
EXTINGUISHING EVERY COLOUR AROUND HER WITH HER INTENSE RADIANCE, LIKE AN ORIENTAL BEAUTY!
WHAT?!
HER SKIN IS AN INDIAN TANNED COLOUR!
HOW COME I DIDN'T NOTICE IT UNTIL NOW?

AND WHO ARE YOU?
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU...
AH, IF IT ISN'T MY SENIOR!
NOW NOW, DON'T BE A STRANGER. WE MET AT THE UNIVERSITY'S FOUNDATION PARTY.
I WAS A JUNIOR AT THE POLO CLUB.
WELL, MUCH OBLIGED. I'LL TREAT YOU TO A DRINK LATER.
OH, WAS THAT IT...
I ESCORTED MY DRUNK SENIOR HOME...
IT'S A LIE.
REALLY?
A JUNIOR FROM COLLEGE?
HUM... RHODAN, IS THAT AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS?
LEAVING THAT ASIDE! WON'T YOU INTRODUCE ME TO THAT BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!
HUM... ERR..
AH, YOU BASTARD THAT WAS YOUR GOAL ALL ALONG!

OH, THE CUTE PERSON BEHIND YOU! DO COME FORWARD!
W-W-W-WATTS!
AND SHE HAS QUITE BEAUTIFUL MANNERS TOO! I, OF COURSE, ALREADY BELIEVED SHE DID.
SHE'S MUCH EASIER TO GET ON WITH THAN A HAUGHTY LADY.
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE RESERVED WITH US.
HUM... ER...
GOOD EVENING. I AM THOROUGHLY PLEASED TO MEET YOU AGAIN.
I AM FRANÇOIS WATTS
AND THIS IS MY JUNIOR BY 3 YEARS, ASLAN BATTOUR.


RHODAN WOULD YOU... GO FETCH ME SOME WINE?
IT'S OUR SECOND TIME.
W-W-WHAT?!

WE'LL CHEER YOU UP!
DID YOUR FRIEND BEAT YOU TO THE PUNCH?
OH, WHAT'S THAT SULLEN FACE FOR!

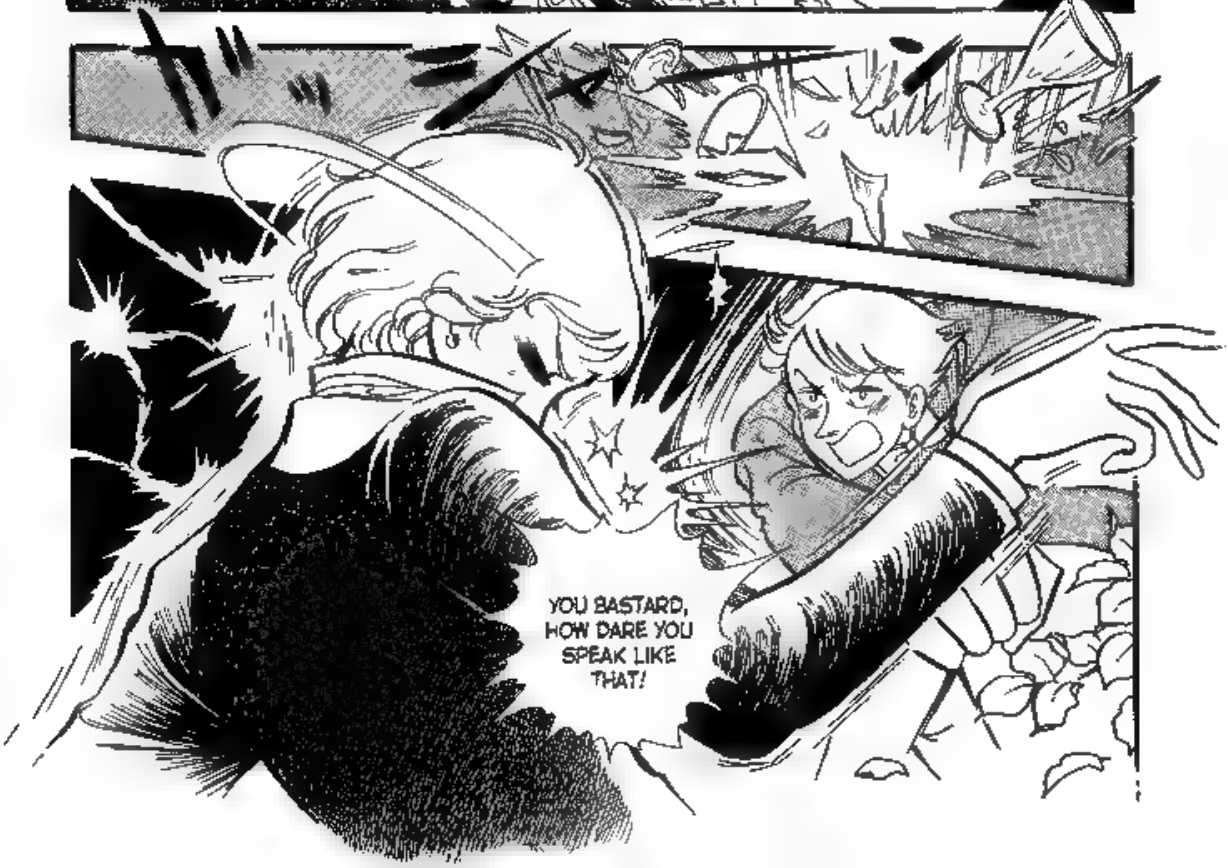
IS IT BECAUSE OF ME?
BE-CAUSE, IF IT IS...
WHY ARE YOU WITH A GLOOMY FACE, MISS PAIVA?
YOU WERE SHINING LIKE THE SUN IN THERE JUST A WHILE AGO.

THAT SMILE IS DIFFERENT!
AH!

I SMILE AT ANY AND EVERY GENTLEMAN.

I'LL NEVER SHOW MY FACE TO YOU EVER AGAIN
BECAUSE I LIKE YOUR SMILE.

DON'T TOUCH PAIVA!
EVEN THOUGH YOUR SKIN MELTED INTO THE DARKNESS, YOUR DARK EYES STOOD OUT..
YOU LAUGHED THE FIRST TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER AT THE OPERA.


YOU BASTARD, HOW DARE YOU SPEAK LIKE THAT!

RHO-DAN!
!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL OF A SUDDEN! STOP THIS SAVAGERY!
NO, IT WAS JUST A CUT ON MY MOUTH.
BLOOD FROM THE LUNGS?!
HEY! NO WAY! THAT BLOOD. IT'S NOT FROM YOUR LUNGS, IS IT?
COME HERE!
ASLAN! WHAT'S WRONG!
IS THERE A FIGHT?!

PAIVA...
DON'T MOVE.
SHOW IT TO ME!
WAIT!
AHH, NO, THIS ISN'T BLOOD FROM CONSUMPTION.
I'M SO GLAD.
YOU WERE WORRIED, PAIVA.
WHAT WERE YOU SO FEARFUL OF?
AH...
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO BE THAT WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE YOU MET ONLY TWICE.

WHO, ME?!
HOW RUDE! TO BE SO SHAMELESS AFTER MEETING ONLY TWICE!
THAT'S ENOUGH WITH THE SHOUTING! GET SOME COCKS AND GO SORT IT OUT IN THE COCKPIT!
I'M NOT ...
W-WHAT!
AREN'T YOU BEING UNFAIR, PAVA?
I WAS PROTESTING BECAUSE THIS GUY BAD--MOUTHED YOUR SKIN!
I ALWAYS GIVE A HARSH LESSON TO GUYS WHO TALK ABOUT YOUR SKIN!
THEY'RE IGNORING US!
YOU KNOW IT, DON'T YOU? WE TALK WITHOUT RESERVE TO ANYONE.
WE GO ANYWHERE WITH ANYONE. AND HAVE A FUN TIME WITH ANYONE.
IT'S ODD FOR YOU TO BE JEALOUS, RHODAN.
THIS GUY GETS TO HAVE SPECIAL TREATMENT, IS THAT IT?

FROM HERE ON, OUR DEAL IS OFF!
YOU'RE A GOOD WOMAN TO HAVE SOME FUN WITH, AFTER ALL.
WELL, EXCUSE ME! IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS COURTING YOU TO GET INTO YOUR GOOD GRACES!
EVEN WE HAVE FREEDOM OF CHOICE! DON'T MOCK US!
A FLOWER IN EACH HAND.
HUMPH! HE WANTED TO SEDUCE A COCOTTE WITH A SHORT TEMPER LIKE THAT!
HE WAS IRRITATED BECAUSE HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ANY MONEY TO PAY FOR HER.
EVEN IF WE WEREN'T HERE FOR BUSINESS, WHO'D EVER WANT A GUY LIKE THAT!
SHH
SHHH
I MUST APOLOGIZE, PAIVA... ABOUT WHAT I SAID ABOUT YOUR SKIN...
THAT'S ALRIGHT... IT'S HARD TO TELL WHETHER YOU WERE DEPRECIATING OR PRAISING IT.
DON'T BE A BOORISH GUY WHO PLAYS AROUND WITH EVERYONE.
DO YOUR BEST ♡
NI

I'M PROUD OF IT.
BUT IT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE PRAISES ME LIKE THAT WHEN THEY SEE ME FOR THE FIRST TIME.
I WAS JUST SURPRISED...
.....
WELL, WHAT DO OTHER PEOPLE SAY?
HUH?
YOU REALLY...
DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING, DO YOU?
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO ASK WHAT KIND OF COMPLIMENTS MEN PAY TO -US-?

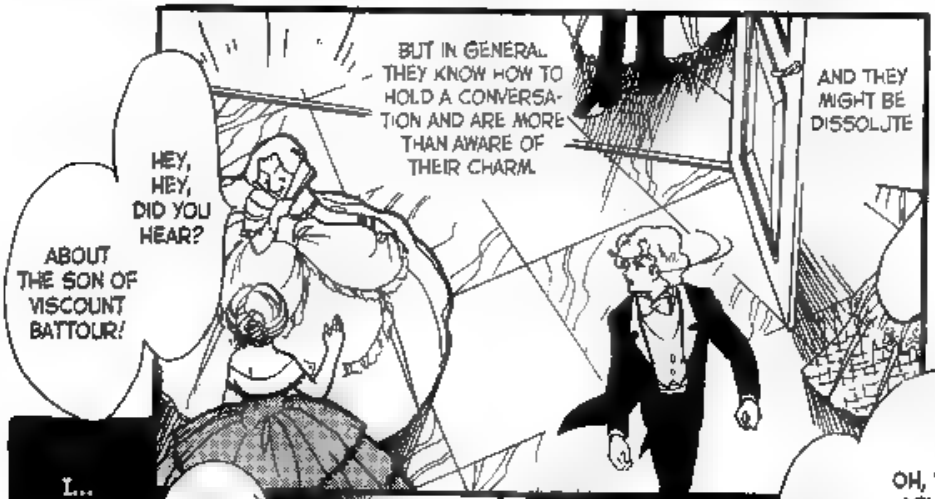
YOU GOT IT? YOU SHOULDN'T ASK WOMEN THINGS THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT.
OH...
OH!
AH, NO!
NO! THAT'S ALRIGHT... IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME, I'LL...
PLEASE DON'T SMILE.
PLEASE DON'T SMILE.
PAIVA!
PAIVA.
IT'S LEAVING THE WORLD TOO FAST.
.....
I HAD NO TIME TO MEMORIZE ANYTHING.
AH, THAT'S QUITE ALRIGHT. LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT MY SKIN COLOUR.
I'M SORRY. SAY, WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
I GOT FRIGHTENED BECAUSE YOU WERE SMILING SO MUCH.
WHAT'S WRONG?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT IT?
LOOK AT THE CO-COTTES!
OVER THERE!
NOWADAYS THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE LOOKING LIKE THEY OWN THE PLACE!

COCOTTES ARE FULL OF LIFE.
THEY MIGHT NOT KNOW HOW TO BE REFINED

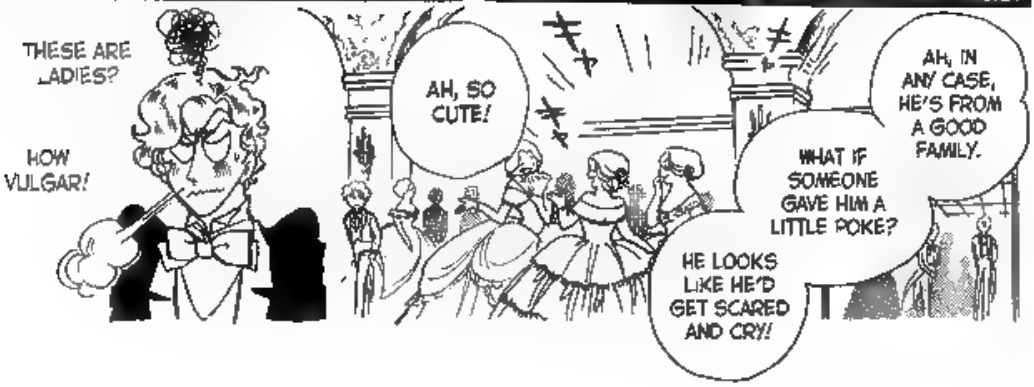
YOU'RE BLIND TO YOUR OWN EMPTY HEADS!
OH, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT IT!

I WONDER WHAT THE HECK IS SO GOOD ABOUT THEM THAT MAKES HIM SO FOR THEM!


HEY, HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
ABOUT THE SON OF VISCOUNT BATTOUR!
BUT IN GENERAL THEY KNOW HOW TO HOLD A CONVERSATION AND ARE MORE THAN AWARE OF THEIR CHARM.
AND THEY MIGHT BE DISSOLUTE

I... I RECOGNIZE HE'S A TOTAL BABY BUT...
HE'S QUITE HANDSOME! ♡♡
HAD TOP GRADES TOO. ♡
HE FINISHED THE LYCÉE ONE YEAR AHEAD OF EVERYBODY.

KI...
A CUTE KID, ISN'T HE?
OH, YES, ASLAN!


THESE ARE LADIES?
HOW VULGAR!
AH, SO CUTE!
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'D GET SCARED AND CRY!
WHAT IF SOMEONE GAVE HIM A LITTLE POKE?
AH, IN ANY CASE, HE'S FROM A GOOD FAMILY.

THE TOPIC MIGHT HAVE CHANGED, BUT THEIR VULGARITY DID NOT.
AH, LIKE THIS AND THAT.
HOW WAS THE OPERA THIS WEEK?
LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
I HEARD M. M'S SON AND MME. L'S DAUGHTER ARE DATING...
Gasp!
AT CHOO!
AH, NO.
I WAS THINKING I OUGHT TO INTRODUCE HIM TO M. S'S DAUGHTER.
DON'T YOU KNOW WHERE ASLAN IS?
CLEARLY WHAT THEY EXCEL AT IS NOT THEIR UPBRINGING!
BUNCH OF CLASSLESS AIRHEADS!
OH, MONSIEUR WATTS
GOOD EVENING!
UGH.....
SOME YOUNG MEN WHO WERE WITH THE COCOTTES GOT INTO A FIGHT AND RAISED A RUCKUS..
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU HEARD?
OH GREAT! IF THIS GETS OUT, HE'LL BE DISINHERITED.
DO YOU KNOW WHO THEY WERE?
RUMOUR HAS IT THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO SEDUCE A
CERTAIN FAMOUS COURTESAN!

ASLAN, HERE!
IF YOU CAN ANSWER MY QUESTION, I'LL LET YOU GO UP ONE STEP.
NO GOOD
ASLAN!
IF YOU DON'T CLOSE YOUR EYES...!
WHAT'S THE COLOUR OF MY SKIN?
IT'S THE COLOUR OF THE PASSION OF A PROUD GYPSY.
INDEED. THE COCOTTES TINT THEIR SKIN TO IMITATE IT AND ATTRACT THE MEN.
AS IF THIS WERE A BEAUTIFUL THING.. SOMETHING ONLY I HAD. LIKE YOU WERE SEEING AN ARABIAN PRINCESS.
YES, ASLAN...
THAT'S HOW YOU SAID IT.
IT'S YOUR NATURAL BEAUTY...
BUT MINE IS DIFFERENT. WHY DO I HAVE THIS COLOUR?
PAIVA...

NOT TOO STRONG...
OH...
HOW'S YOUR LIQUOR?
hic
AH, BILLIARDS!
A GENTLEMAN'S GAME.
HEY, ISN'T THAT PAPA?
SHE BROUGHT A BABY WITH HER.
WAS SHE INTO YOUNGER GUYS?!
PFT
LET'S GO!
HUH?
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE BILLIARDS, HOW ABOUT PLAYING CARDS?

HOHO!
THERE'S SOME KIND OF SUSPICIOUS MOOD BETWEEN THEM.
MAYBE IT'S MUTUAL LOVE!
HOW UNFORTUNATE!
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SHE'S WITH HIM FOR BUSINESS.
I'M SORRY, PAIVA. I'VE BEEN ONTO YOU THIS WHOLE TIME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF GAME YOU'RE PLAYING
BUT I THINK I CAN DO IT TOO.
HEY, ASLAN... YOU'RE YOU.
JUST LIKE I AM ME.
I CAN HEAR MUSIC COMING FROM SOMEWHERE.
ARE YOU COLD? YOU'RE SHAKING...
IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN BY THE RIVER FOR TOO LONG.
EVEN IF IT'S WARM THERE, I DON'T WANT TO BE IN A PLACE FULL OF PEOPLE.
LET'S WALK A BIT MORE...

OR A RONDO?
IS IT A MINUET?
OH, I CAN DANCE!
LET'S DANCE! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW!
HEY, IT IS SAID THAT WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A FIRE IN A COLD DAY YOU CAN DANCE TO GET WARM.
A GYPSY DANCE!
HERE, RAISE YOUR ARMS!
YOU CAN'T GET WARM WITH A MINUET!
PAVA!
AH, NO GOOD...
I CAN'T DANCE WITH THIS DRESS.
LA SE NE
LA SEINE
WHEREVER YOU FLOW, SE NE
YOU ARE ALREADY USED TO SADNESS
BECAUSE YOU'VE SEEN QUITE A LOT OF IT

BUT YOU'RE NOT USED TO THE GRIEF...
I JUST REMEMBERED A SILLY OLD SONG.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU WERE CRYING...
... OF A SLIVER OF TENDERNESS
SHE HAD A POOR LIFE BUT SHE WAS HAPPY...
MY MOTHER, WHO DIED OF TUBERCULOSIS.
WHITE SKIN AND BLUE EYES, SHE HAILED FROM SCANDINAVIA.
HAVING MARRIED A GYPSY WITH DARK CURLY HAIR, SHORTLY AFTER THEY WERE SEPARATED BY DEATH... I NEVER SAW MY FATHER'S FACE.
AT THE AGE OF 12....I BADE FAREWELL TO MY MOTHER.
EVERY TIME I THINK ABOUT HER
I FEEL LIKE I CAN LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER DAY.
THOUGH I KNOW SHE WON'T COME BACK...
I CAME TO PARIS AND BECAME THE MAID OF AN OLD COCOTTE AT THE AGE OF 14.
THAT FASTIDIOUS OLD WOMAN WAS THE ONE WHO TRAINED ME.
SHE DIED ALREADY.
HEY... I OFTEN THINK I'D LIKE THE MOMENT TO LAST FOREVER.
I'M THINKING THAT NOW, TOO.

IT MAKES IT LOOK LIKE THE DAY WAS VERY PEACEFUL...
AND I FEEL LIKE LIVING ANOTHER DAY.
BUT WHEN THE SUN RISES I'M ALWAYS BROUGHT BACK TO REALITY.
SEEING THE HARBOUR AT DAWN ALWAYS MAKES ME THINK THAT.
SO I ALWAYS GET SAD WHEN I WISH FOR THAT.
BUT THAT'S ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE, ISN'T IT?
I LOVE YOU, PAIVA.
EVEN IF YOU HATED ME
MY LOVE FOR YOU IS REAL.

YOU ARE ALREADY USED TO SADNESS
BECAUSE YOU'VE SEEN
BUT YOU'RE NOT USED TO THE GRIEF
OF A SLIVER OF TENDERNESS.

ゴーン
ゴーン
ゴーン
Lately he's been appearing only on the cover
Serge fan Satou
Well, fu fu fu!
Wait and see, they're even more late-blooming than the Serge fans!
I got flooded with letters!
I'm feeling down this time around
Are there no Asian fans, I wonder—
The reason? When Augu was introduced
Lolicon Zone!
Oppressive!
Watts' wife
Mr Watts
I decided not to oppose the women for the time being
1/7 page
KEIKO TAN'S
CORNER

AH, MR WATTS!
HEY, GOOD MORNING! WORKING HARD
MISS LIDELLE! ♡
WAA~~~~~!
OH!
WHAT IS WRONG, LIDELLE!
I DON'T... I DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE CRYING ALL OF A SUDDEN!
IS IT ABOUT ASLAN?
A SIDE BENEFIT!
N-NO WAY.... THAT GUY....
WITH PAIVA....?!
THAT IDIOT!
So easily...
That late bloomer did..
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!! WELL, FROM THAT POINT ON, HE...
WHERE WAS HE GOING! WHERE DID YOU TWO PART! UP TO WHERE WERE YOU TWO TOGETHER!
HE'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN! HE DIDN'T COME HOME YESTERDAY NIGHT! I WAS UP UNTIL MORNING WAITING FOR HIM!

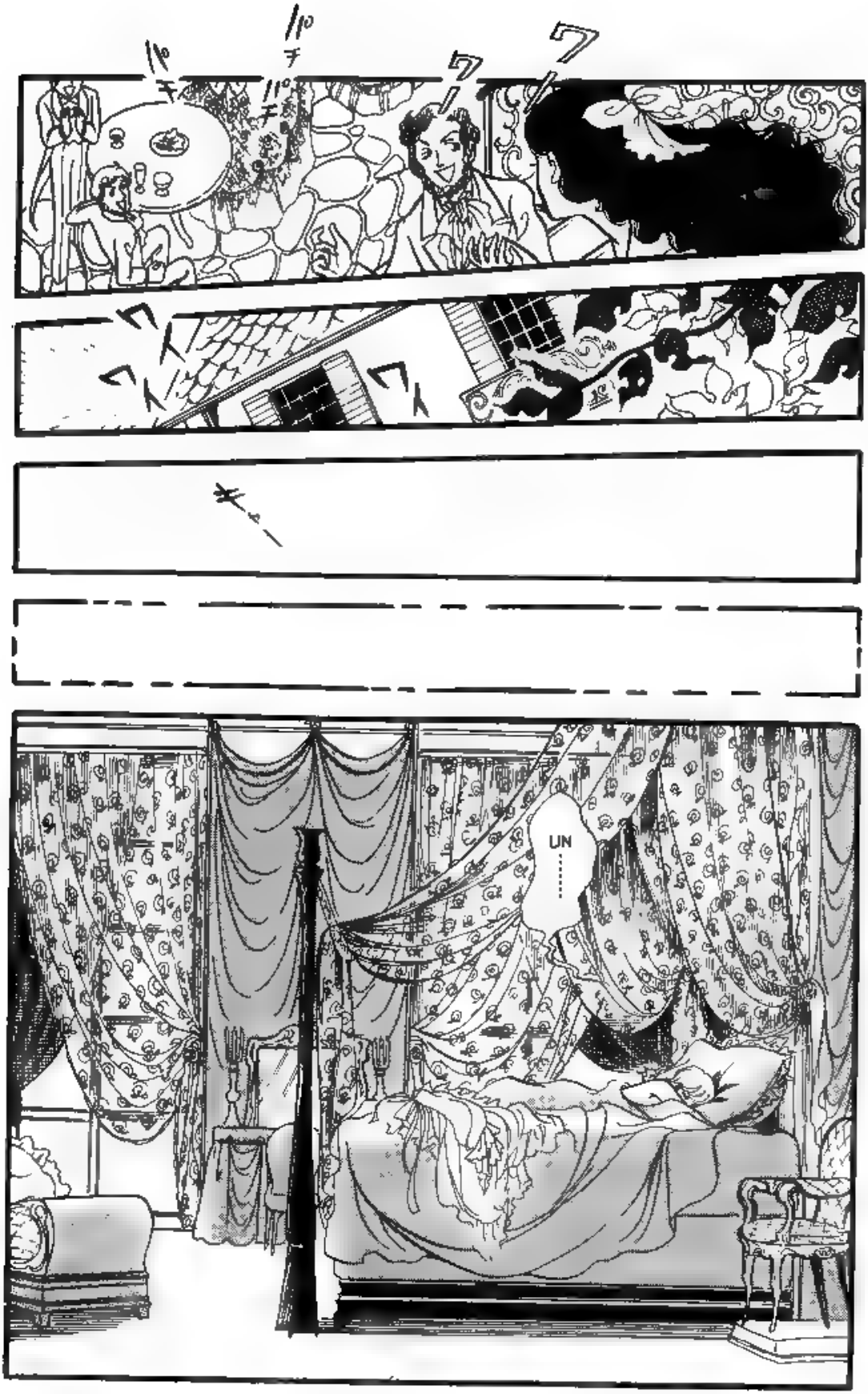
YES! IF YOU THINK I'M DECEIVING YOU, COME CHECK!
REALLY ?
EVERYONE CAME COME? THAT'S BULL!
YOU CAN HANG AROUND!
EVEN PEOPLE WHO AREN'T EVEN PASSING ACQUAINTANCES ARE WELCOME IN PAIVA'S SUNDAY MORNING PARTIES.

DOES THAT MEAN THE PEOPLE WHO COME HERE ARE ONLY THE LIBERTINES WHO RENEGED ON GOD?
AS A RESULT OF THAT WAY OF SEPARATING THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF
A WELL-MADE PLAN!
VIRGIN MARY AT THE CHAPEL.
BUT IN EXCHANGE YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP THE JOY OF MEETING
GOOD MORNING, ELLA.
YOU BUMS! GO TAKE A LONG WALK OFF A SHORT PIER!
HUMPH!
NO, OUR PRINCESS!
THAT'S UNUSUAL, MISS PROSTITUTE.
WELCOME, GOOD MORNING, EVERYBODY.
I'M SORRY, I OVERSLEPT.
OH, PAIVA!! WONDERFUL!
MY LITTLE BIRD!

HE STOLE A MARCH ON US! THAT WEASEL!
IT MOVES ME SO MUCH, THIS BLACK HAIR OF YOURS.
PAIVA, WE EXIST TOO, YOU KNOW!
SEEING IT CASCADING DOWN YOUR NAPE IS INDEED SUPREME HAPPINESS.
MY MY, WHAT'S UP WITH YOU GUYS?
ONCE PAIVA COMES OUT YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT US!
THEN WHAT'S WITH HIM JUST PASSING OUT THE MOMENT HE ARRIVES TO A COCOTTE'S HOUSE?
HO HO
IF HE ISN'T A KID
KID ? AH, ASLAN? OH, YOU'RE SO CRUEL, AHA-HAHAH
WHAT S IT, ELLA?
DON'T YOU "WHAT IS IT" ME. WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT THAT KID?

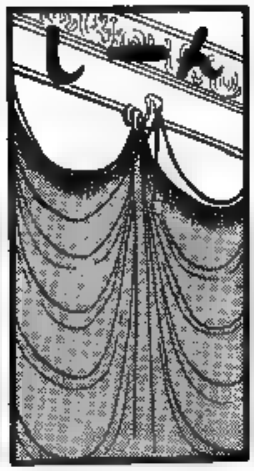
.....
I THOUGHT EVERY GUY WHO CAME CLOSE TO YOU WAS JUST LOOKING FOR "ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE NIGHT"!
A KNIGHT, HUH!
HE JUST ACTED AS MY KNIGHT FOR THE NIGHT.
IT SEEMED TO ME WE COULD BECOME ACTUAL FRIENDS.
HE'S AROUND MY AGE.
YOU HAVE THAT OBSTINATE LOOK, CHARACTERISTIC OF A GYPSY!
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT YOU'RE THE MARQUIS' DOLL AND CAN'T DO AS YOU PLEASE.
IN THE END
BUT YOU THINK THE MARQUIS WILL HATE A BOY LIKE HIM
FOR SURE.
TELL ME ABOUT IT!

ONCE HE WAKES UP, DO I THROW HIM OUT BEFORE HE CAN SEE THE MERRYMAKING IN THE GARDEN?
AND WHAT ABOUT THAT BONBON?
HE'S A WELL-OFF PERSON WHO HAS GIVEN YOU A BETTER LIFE.
A COCOTTE MUSTN'T DISPLEASE HER LIFELONG PATRON.
THANK YOU, ELLA.
BUT PLEASE LET HIM DO AS HE SEES FIT.
PAIVA!
WHAT IS THE HOST OF THE PARTY DOING!
COME QUICKLY, THE DAYS ARE SHORT IN AUTUMN!


UN

AH ...!
... WHERE AM I?
A NICE SMELL.
PAIVA!!
I...!
A GOWN?! WHOSE... WHY AM I...
WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY?
I ESCORTED PAIVA HOME AT DAWN...
AND WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO GO BACK...
SEE YOU.
!
OR MAYBE I COULDN'T HANDLE MY NERVOUSNESS...
WAS THE LIQUOR I DRANK TO STAVE OFF THE COLD TOO STRONG?
I JUST PASSED OUT THERE AND THEN.
WE CAN PUT HIM IN MY BED!
SO SUDDENLY! THE GUEST ROOM ISN'T EVEN PREPARED!
HOW SHAMEFUL!!

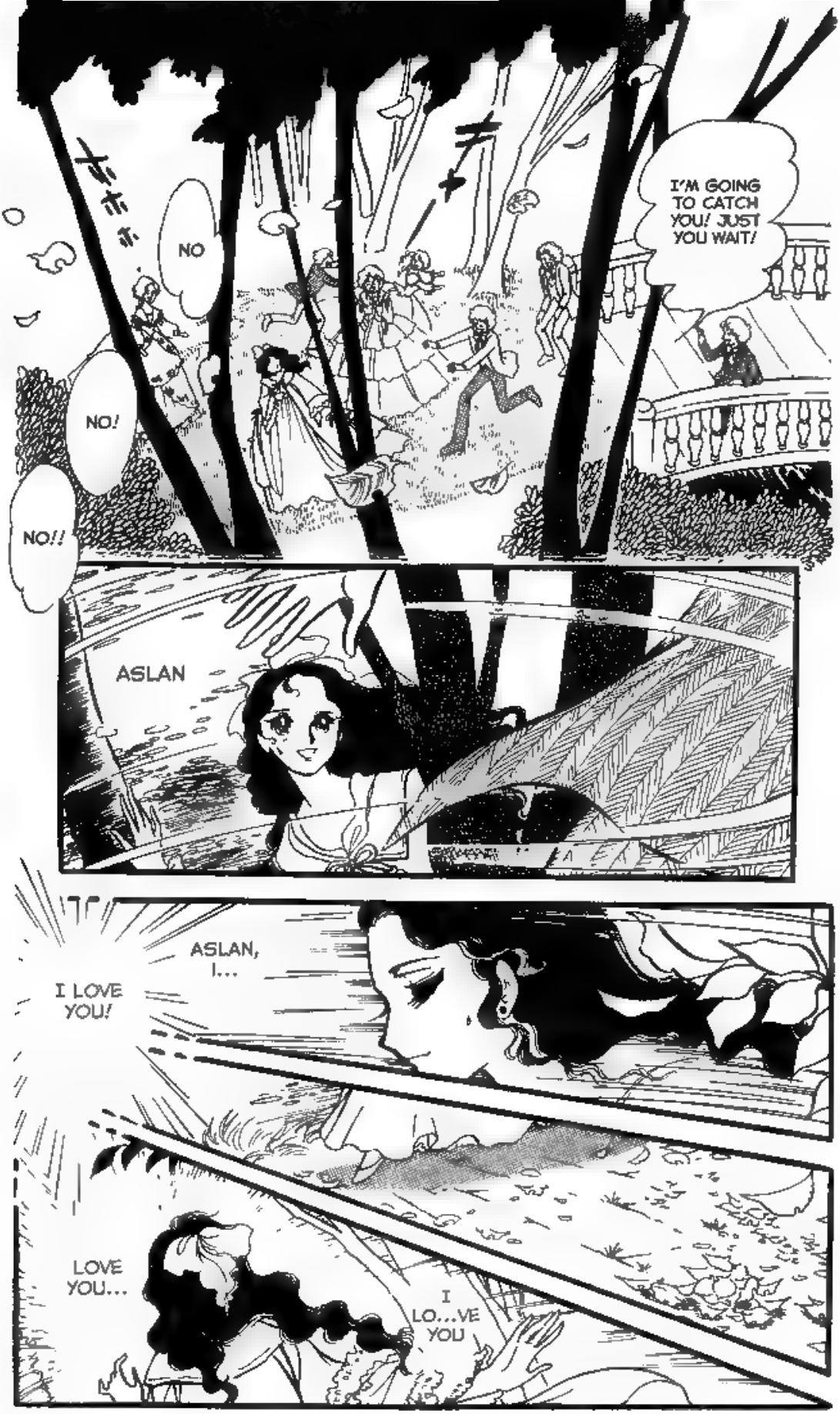
...WHILE WE SLEPT.
I SURELY DID NOT DO ANYTHING TO HER


しーん

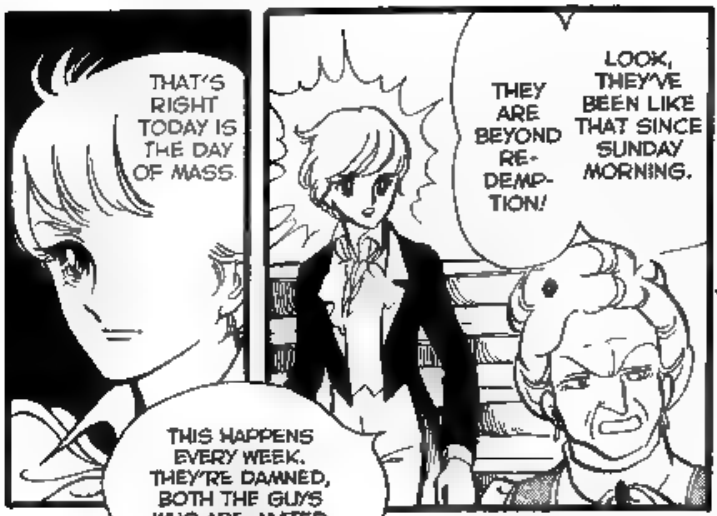
BUT DID SHE... SLEEP HERE TOO?!

SHE SLEPT... BY... MY SIDE.
AHAHAHA
KYA!!
LOOK, I CAUGHT YOU!
GIVE ME A REWARD!
PAIVA, DON'T BE CARELESS! DON'T GET CAUGHT SO EASILY!

WELL
ARE YOU READY? I'LL RUN FOR REAL THIS TIME.
COUNT TO 10!
I'LL GIVE ONE OF MY FINGERS TO WHOMEVER CATCHES ME.
OH, THAT'S SO WONDERFUL!
I WISH I HAD ANOTHER LEG!
ASLAN, I'M GOING TO LIE NEXT TO YOU
DON'T WAKE UP.
ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE
DON'T WAKE UP.
YES, KEEP ON SLEEPING
NGH
SIX
SEVEN
ASLAN...
EIGHT

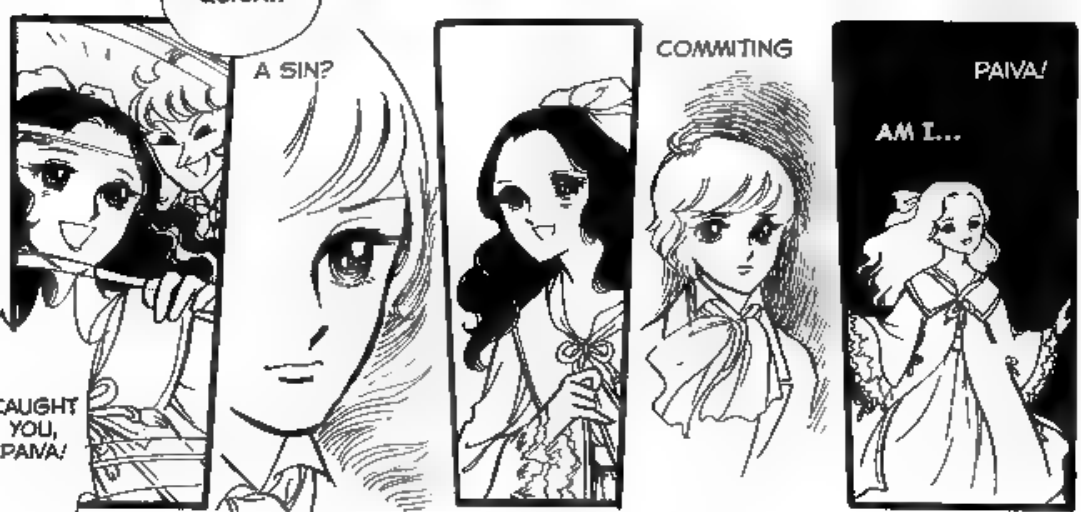

NO
NO!
NO!!
I'M GOING TO CATCH YOU! JUST YOU WAIT!
ASLAN
ASLAN, I...
I LOVE YOU!
LOVE YOU...
I LO...VE YOU

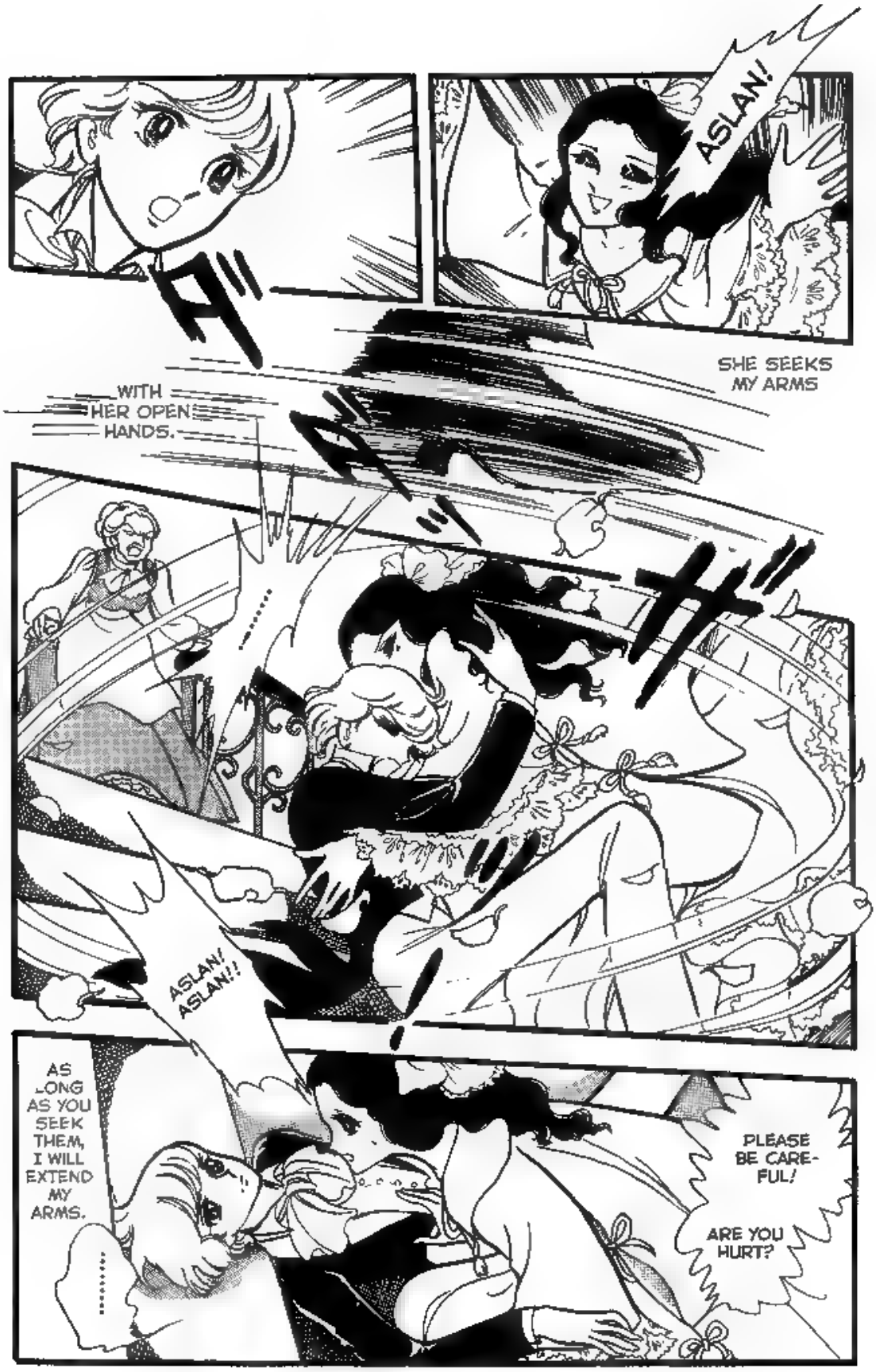
UH UHM
C-CALM DOWN...
YOU NEED MAD COUR-AGE FOR THIS.
SHE'S RUNNING AROUND THE GARDEN WITH SOME SCOUNDRELS. SHE'LL BE BACK SOON.
WHERE IS MLLE. P-PAIVA?
A SHOWY SHAWL, JUST ONE GLOVE.
A CANE, A HAT, A FEATHER FAN
AND CHEERFUL NESS OF DESPERA-TION...
THE DAILY ANXIETY...
ALL OF A COCOTTE'S POSSES-SIONS ARE SOMEWHAT FOR-LORN.


THAT'S RIGHT TODAY IS THE DAY OF MASS.
THEY ARE BEYOND RE-DEMP-TION!
LOOK, THEY'VE BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE SUNDAY MORNING.

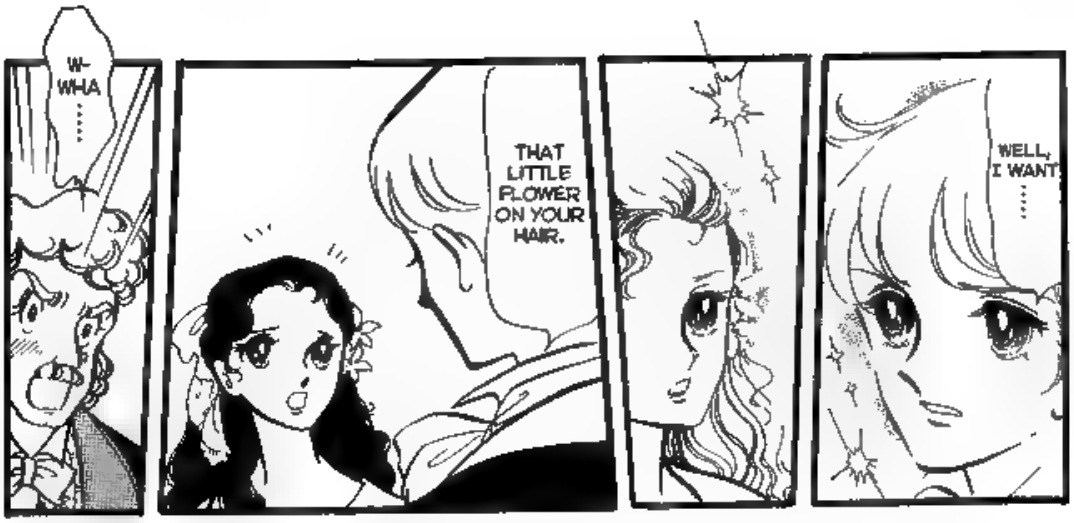
THIS HAPPENS EVERY WEEK. THEY'RE DAMNED, BOTH THE GUYS WHO ARE INVITED AND THE ONES WHO COME BY THEMSELVES!
GO HOME QUICKLY AND REPENT! IT'S FUTILE TO CHASE AFTER A COCOTTE!
I DON'T BLAME YOU, YOU'RE STILL JUST AN INNO-CENT KID.
I NEVER MISSED IT BEFORE!

TRUE TO THEIR REPU-TATION, CO-COTTES GO ALONG WITH ANYBODY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW WELL YOU TREATED THEM


GO HOME, QUICK!!
A SIN?
COMMITING
PAIVA!
AM I...
CAUGHT YOU, PAIVA!


ASLAN!
SHE SEEKS MY ARMS
WITH HER OPEN HANDS.
ASLAN! ASLAN!!
AS LONG AS YOU SEEK THEM, I WILL EXTEND MY ARMS.
PLEASE BE CARE-FUL!
ARE YOU HURT?

WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
YOU CAN JOIN US, BUT DON'T GET IN THE WAY OF OUR GAME!
ASLAN ?!
EVEN IF THEY ARE WEAK
WELL THEN, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GIVE OUT THE REWARDS.
WHAT PART OF ME DO YOU WANT?
YOUR PURE HAND!
YOUR CUTE ROUND EYES!
YOUR LIPS!
YOUR SLENDER PINKY!
YOUR FOOT!
AND YOU, ASLAN?
.....



PAIVA…

YOU MUSTN'T GIVE YOUR-SELF OUT TO OTHERS.

……

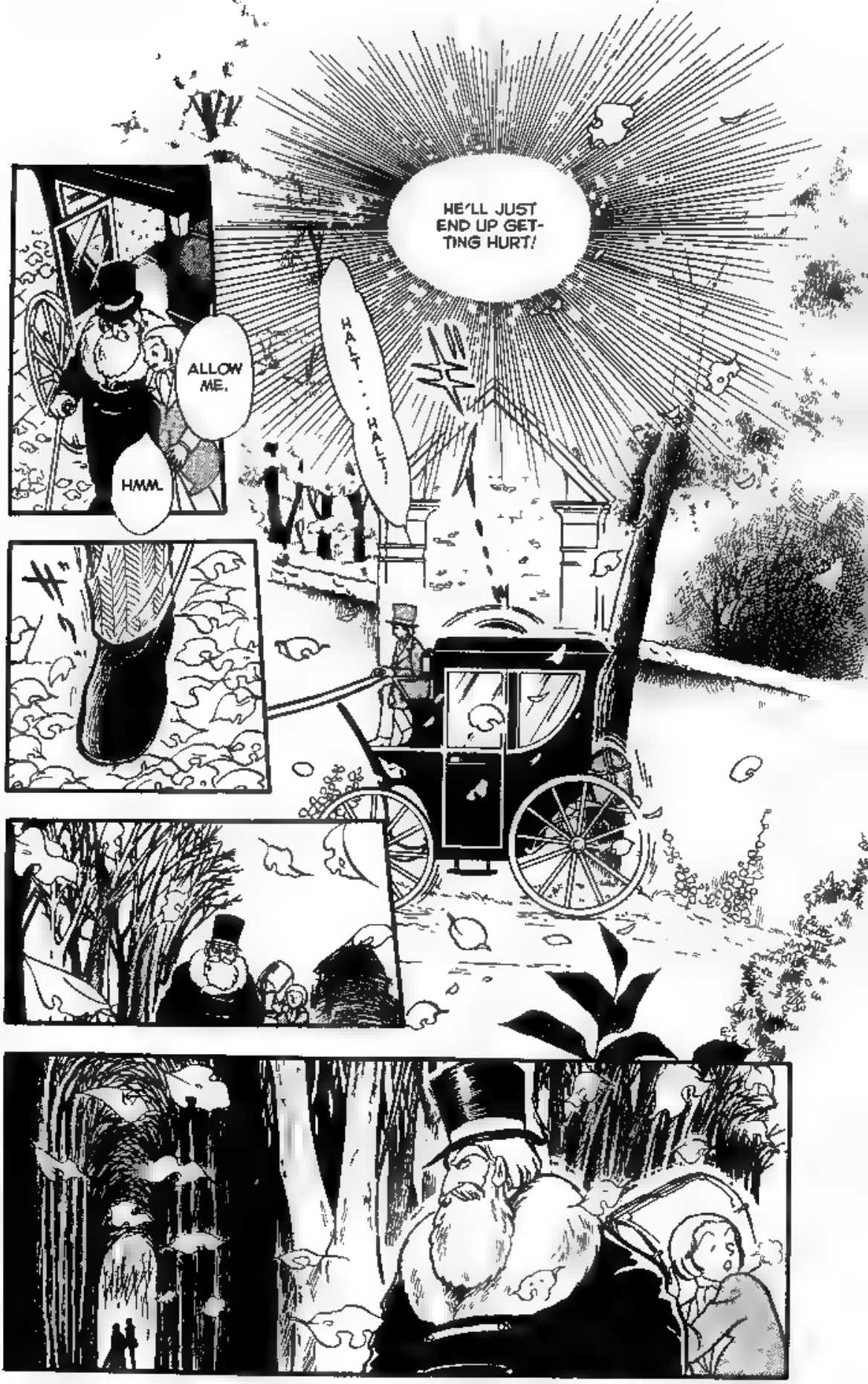
PROMISE ME…

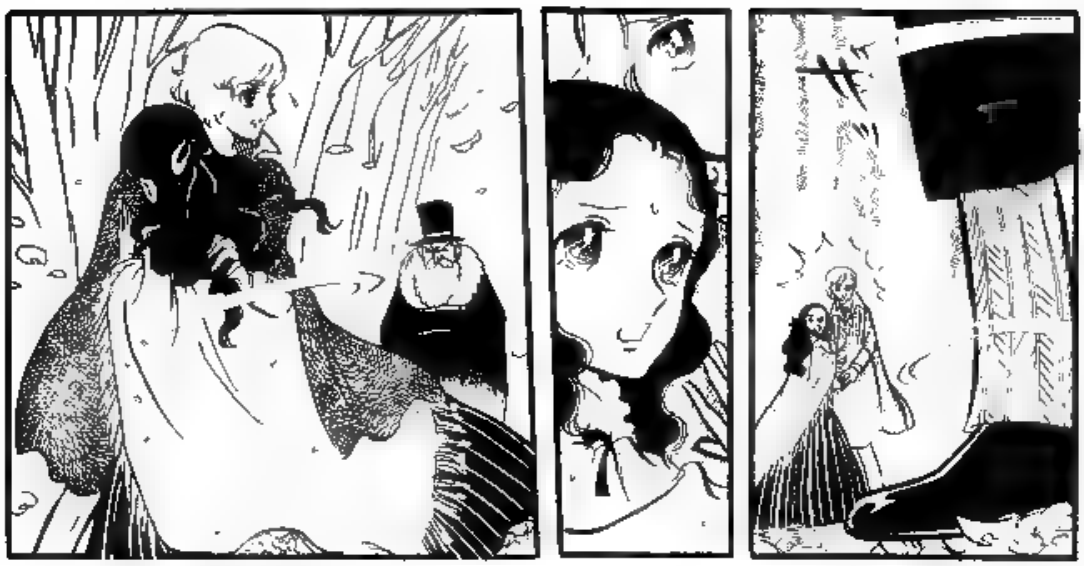
THAT YOU WON'T DO THAT EVER AGAIN, NOT EVEN AS A JOKE.

VALUE YOUR-SELF.

AS-
LAN
……

DID HE REALLY SPEND THE NIGHT AT A COCOTTE'S PLACE!
DID HE REALLY TELL YOU THAT?!
BARON ALBINÉ, WHO USED TO GO TO THAT WOMAN'S PLACE.
whisper
whisper
I CAN'T!
DO HIS PARENTS KNOW?
OUTRAGEOUS!
THAT'S THE PROBLEM IN LETTING SOMEONE SO YOUNG BE INDEPENDENT
HUMPH, HE WAS SEDUCED!
NO ONE CAN HAVE HER.
AND EVEN IF HE WEREN'T
PAIVA HAS THAT BIG PATRON, MARQUIS GARGERE


HE'LL JUST END UP GETTING HURT!
HALT... HALT!
ALLOW ME.
HMM.



HMPH, A NEW FACE.
I AM GEORGES-LOUIS GARGERE.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU...
I AM ASLAN BATTOUR.
I HAVE HEARD QUITE A LOT ABOUT YOU.

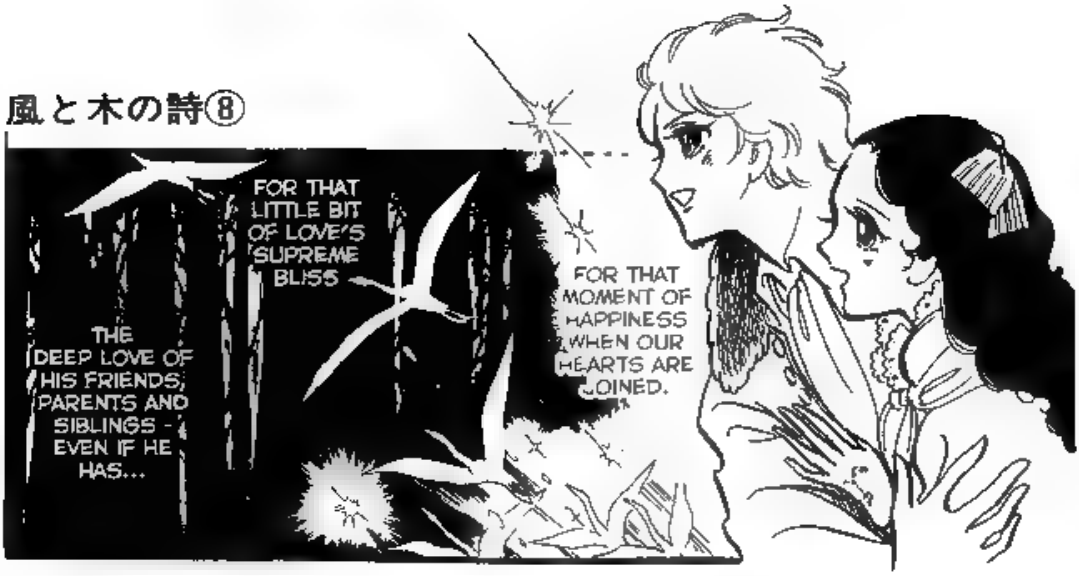
WOULD YOU STOP WITH THE WEIRD FACES.
WHAT'S WITH YOU TWO?
IN ANY CASE, I WAS ABLE TO FIGURE OUT ONE THING. THE MARQUIS IS NOT A STUBBORN FOOL.
YOU..
YOU JUST HANDED PAIVA TO HIM WITH A NOD AND A YES SIR?
PAIVA IS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION RIGHT NOW!
THIS IS WHY YOU ARE A BABY!!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SNATCH HER UP RIGHT THERE AND RAN AWAY! IDIOT!
EH. . BUT THE MARQUIS IS HER GUARDIAN. IT'S NO. .
COULD I EVER DO SOMETHING THAT PREPOSTEROUS!
HUH...

A PUZZLE, IS IT.
THE QUESTIONS RACKING YOUR BRAIN YOU MUST BE QUITE LIKE THAT
HOW YOU FOOLED ME AND EXCHANGED VOWS OF LOVE WITH THAT GREENHORN
IS THAT IT, MY CUTE PRIN-CESS?

THERE.
.....
NO, THAT'S THERE.
AND THIS IS HERE
WHAT TO DO. BUT IF ONE CALMS DOWN AND THINKS ABOUT IT, IT'S OF NO IMPORTANCE....
YOU'RE QUITE FOND OF THAT LAD, YES?
YOU THINK THAT TOO, RIGHT?
THAT'S WONDERFUL.
BUT HIS LOSING HEART AND LEAVING, LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, IS THE MOST THAT CAN HAPPEN.

THAT'S WHY...
I WON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU INTRODUCE ME TO MANY YOUNG MEN.
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG...
IT'S COMPLETELY NORMAL FOR YOU TO GO AND HAVE AFFAIRS BEHIND MY BACK.
HOW-EVER...
JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT WILL SHAME ME.
KEEP THINGS SILENT AND OUT OF SIGHT, UN-DERSTOOD?
YES.
I'M GOING TO BED EARLY, THE NIGHT GROWS COLD.

POINT THEY WERE ALL SERIOUS
UP UNTIL THIS POINT WITH ALL THE YOUNG MEN THAT FELL IN LOVE WITH ME
YES, IT'S BEEN THE SAME AS ALWAYS
AND I EVEN WAITED FOR THEM
FU
WILL HE COME?
EVEN IF WE CAN GET OVER THAT WALL
I AM MARQUIS GEORGES-LOUIS GARGERE'S MISTRESS.



TO BETRAY THAT?

AH, I FEEL NAUSEOUS...
I CAN'T MOVE
RING-ING IN MY HEAD
WHAT'S THIS SOUND
ASLAN!
GET UP, WILL YOU! ASLAN!!
ACK!
WHO'S SHAKING ME
IT HURTS
STOP...
IT WAS QUITE ROWDY, WASN'T IT LOUIS!
YOU'RE IN MY ROOM
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU FORGOT EVE-RYTHING ABOUT LAST NIGHT
HMPH
YOU'RE FINALLY UP
WATTS

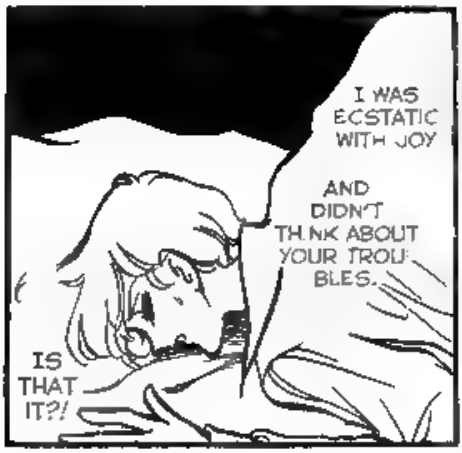
SOMETHING HAPPENED LAST NIGHT... I CAN'T REMEMBER
WHAT HAPPENED?

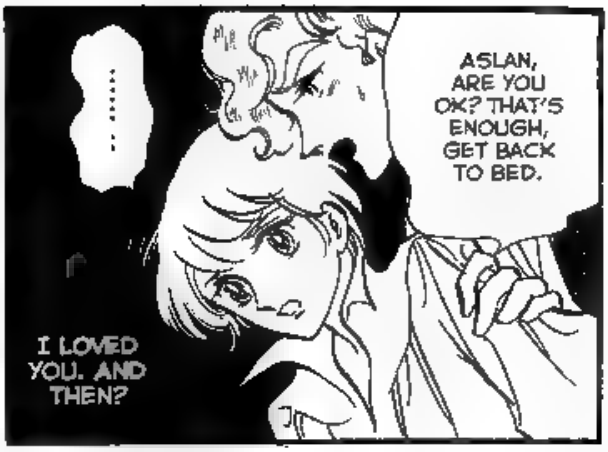
GET READY FOR THE HEADACHE AND THE NAUSEA, THERE'S NO WAY OF HELPING THAT KIND OF HEAVY DRINKING.

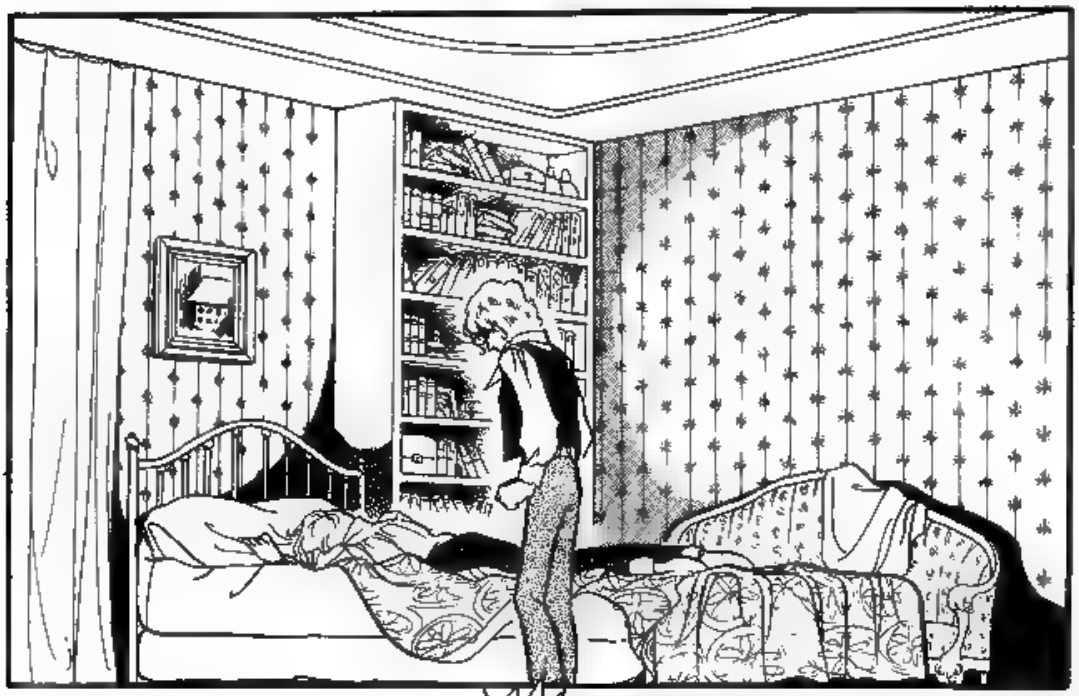
WAIT, LOUIS-RENÉ!
WAIT!
AH.
WELL, WATTS, I'M OFF. SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.

YESTERDAY... YOU SAID... YOU SAID SOMETHING!
SAY IT AGAIN!
ALL THAT REMAINS IS AN INTENSE EMOTION.
I DON'T. I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING!
ASLAN...
NON!
THAT'S ENOUGH. I WON'T GET ANY MORE INVOLVED. I'M OUT.

!!
THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU A PAMPERED BRAT.
DROP IT ALREADY, LOUIS-RENÉ.
IDIOT! DON'T ACT WITHOUT THINKING!
ASLAN
UCK!
NO, I'M NOT DROPPING IT. HE, WHO GREW UP NEVER FACING ANY TROUBLES, NEEDS THIS.
SINCE HE WAS BLESSED WITH A GOOD ENVIRONMENT GROWING UP
YOU TOO KNOW THIS VERY WELL.
HE'S TOO NAIVE AND THINKS THE WORLD IS LIKE THAT TOO.
PAIVA
PAIVA
WHAT HAVE I DONE TO YOU?
TOLD ME TO FORGET ABOUT HER
MY TWO GOOD FRIENDS
AH, YES I REMEMBER NOW
BUT LET ME OFF THE HOOK THIS TIME, I HAVE AN ACCOMPANIMENT EXAM TODAY.
I'M NOT HOLDING BACK NEXT TIME

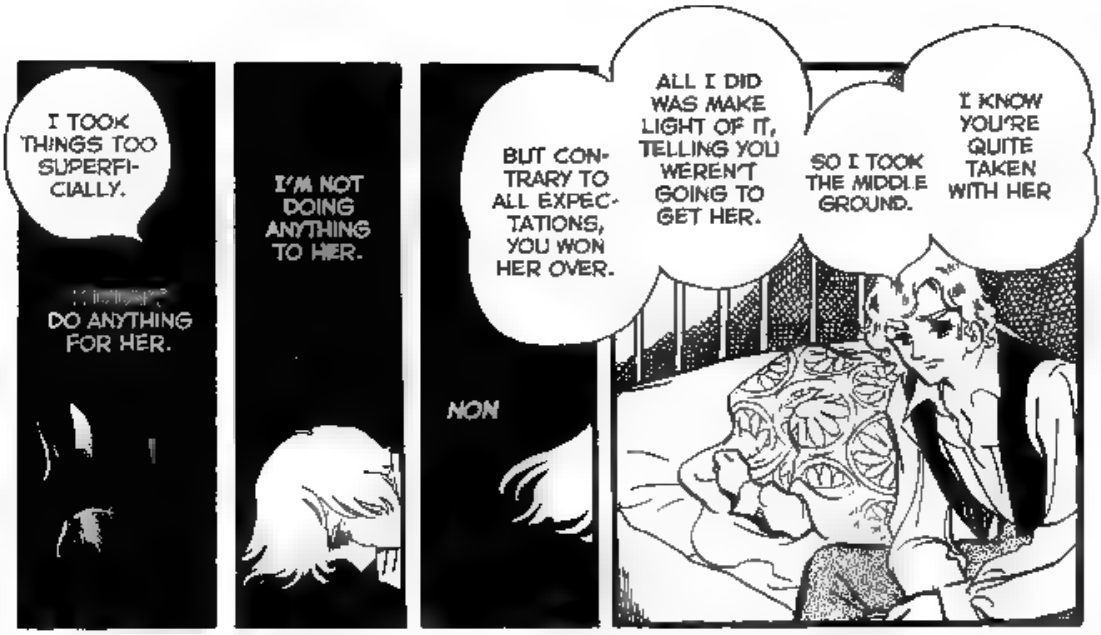

I WAS ECSTATIC WITH JOY
AND DIDN'T THINK ABOUT YOUR TROUBLES.
IS THAT IT?!


ASLAN, ARE YOU OK? THAT'S ENOUGH, GET BACK TO BED.
I LOVED YOU. AND THEN?

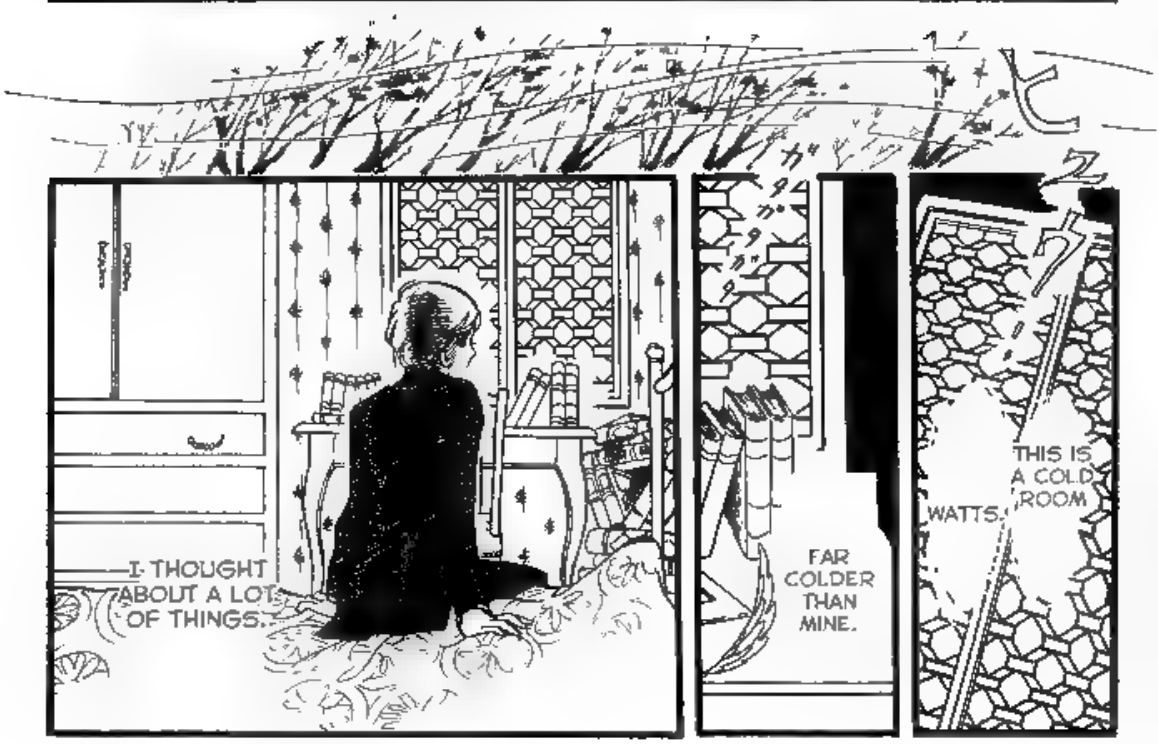


I'M LEAVING RIGHT AWAY! BUT LISTEN
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
DON'T LOOK!

ASLAN


I TOOK THINGS TOO SUPERFICIALLY.
DO ANYTHING FOR HER.
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING TO HER.
NON
BUT CONTRARY TO ALL EXPECTATIONS, YOU WON HER OVER.
ALL I DID WAS MAKE LIGHT OF IT, TELLING YOU WEREN'T GOING TO GET HER.
SO I TOOK THE MIDDLE GROUND.
I KNOW YOU'RE QUITE TAKEN WITH HER

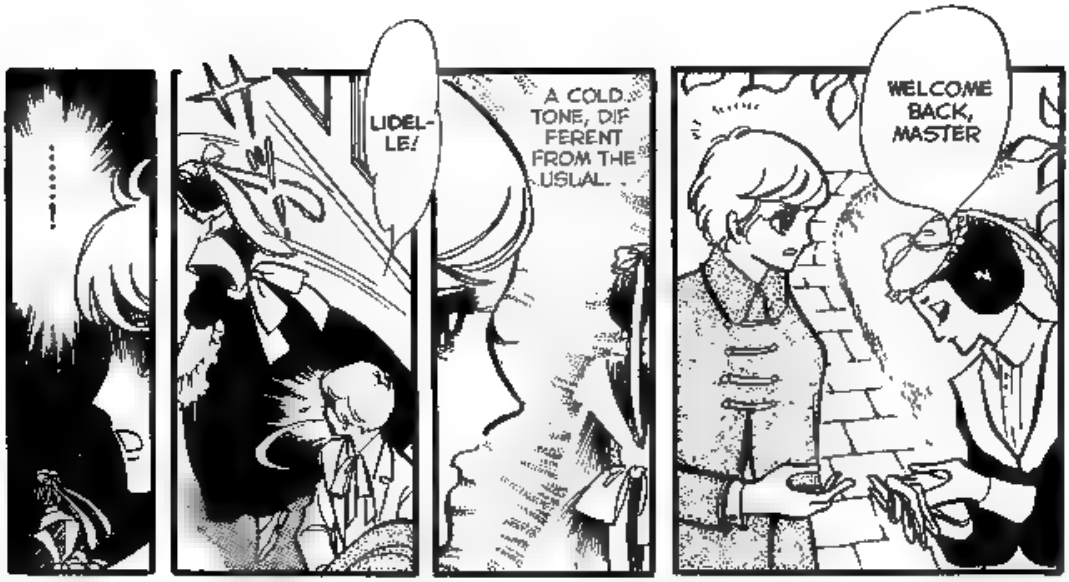
SLEEP ALL YOU WANT.
WELL, I'M GOING.
I'LL BE BACK WHEN MY CLASSES ARE OVER.


I THOUGHT ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS.
FAR COLDER THAN MINE.
WATTS.
THIS IS A COLD ROOM

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!
ASLAN!
THIS IS ALREADY A SCANDAL IN THE HIGH SOCIETY.
YOU'RE THE HEIR OF A VISCOUNT!
UNLIKE US, YOU'RE NOT OF ORDINARY BIRTH.
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH LOVING A COCOTTE JUST LIKE THAT?
EVEN JUST HAVING A ROLL IN THE HAY WITH HER WOULDN'T BE ACCEPTABLE!

DO YOU NEVER THINK ABOUT ANYTHING?
YOUR BEING IN LOVE
HAS ALL KINDS OF REPERCUSSIONS ON THOSE AROUND YOU.
FIRST OF ALL, THERE'S NO WAY YOUR PARENT WOULD ALLOW IT.
THEY'D BECOME THE LAUGHING STOCK OF HIGH SOCIETY.
THEY'D LOSE ALL THEIR ACQUAINTANCES.
YOUR ACTIONS ARE TOO THOUGHTLESS!
ON TOP OF THAT, SHE'S THE MARQUIS MISTRESS.
HER PATRON IS NO SUCKER!
THE MARQUIS WON'T BE AMUSED BY THIS!
YES, ASLAN
I'M WORRIED ABOUT IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU ANGER MARQUIS GEORGES-LOUIS GARGERE
THERE'S NO WAY A VISCOUNT CAN STAND AGAINST THE POWER OF A MARQUIS.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SELF SH!
YOU ONLY HAVE THE LIFE YOU DO BECAUSE OF YOUR FATHER'S EFFORTS
ASLAN
YOU'RE NAIVE!
YOU'RE JUST A PAMPERED BRAT WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE WORLD.
MY HOUSE. THE HOUSE THAT PROVES I'M A VISCOUNT.
EVENTUALLY, IT'LL BECOME MINE...
BUT... IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE MY OWN YET.
whisper
whisper
OH, LONG TIME NO SEE! HOW DO YOU DO...
OH!

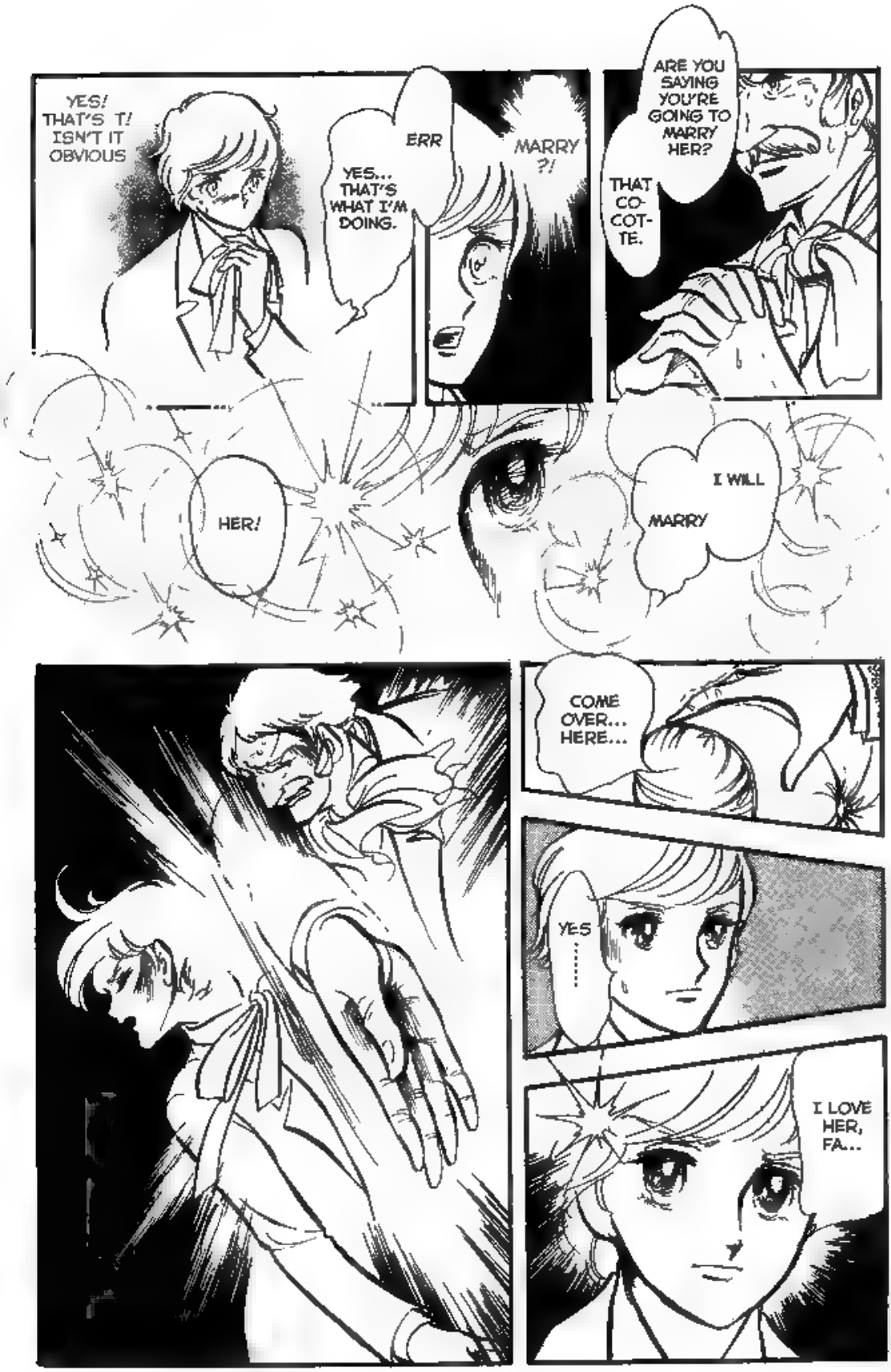

LIDEL-LE!
A COLD TONE, DIF FERENT FROM THE USUAL.
WELCOME BACK, MASTER

THE OLD MASTER IS HERE. PLEASE GO TO THE LIVING ROOM.

HE OUGHT TO PROPERLY PICK UP THE DEAD LEAVES.
THE GARDENER HASN'T BEEN THOROUGH WITH HIS JOB.
GREETINGS, FATHER.
STOP ASSOCIATING WITH THE COCOTTE.
ASLAN
MASTER ASLAN!
WERE YOU THAT HURT BY WHAT I DID...
NO
WHY AREN'T YOU SCREAMING AS YOU ALWAYS DO?
WHY, FATHER...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STILL TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO BE DOING THAT?

HER NAME IS PAIVA, I NEVER THOUGHT OF HER AS A COCOTTE.
JUST AS A WOMAN...
BE SILENT!! IT'S ALL THE SAME!
WHAT?
SHE'S... PAIVA.
I DIDN'T LET YOU BE INDEPENDENT SO YOU WOULD GO PLAY AROUND WITH COCOTTES!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH GOSSIP IS GOING AROUND?
IT'S SHAME-FUL!
FATHER ...!
I CAN STILL DO THAT MUCH!!
IF YOU PLAN ON KEEPING UP WITH THAT SORT OF FRIVOLITY
I'LL TAKE AWAY THAT PRIVILEGE RIGHT THIS INSTANT!

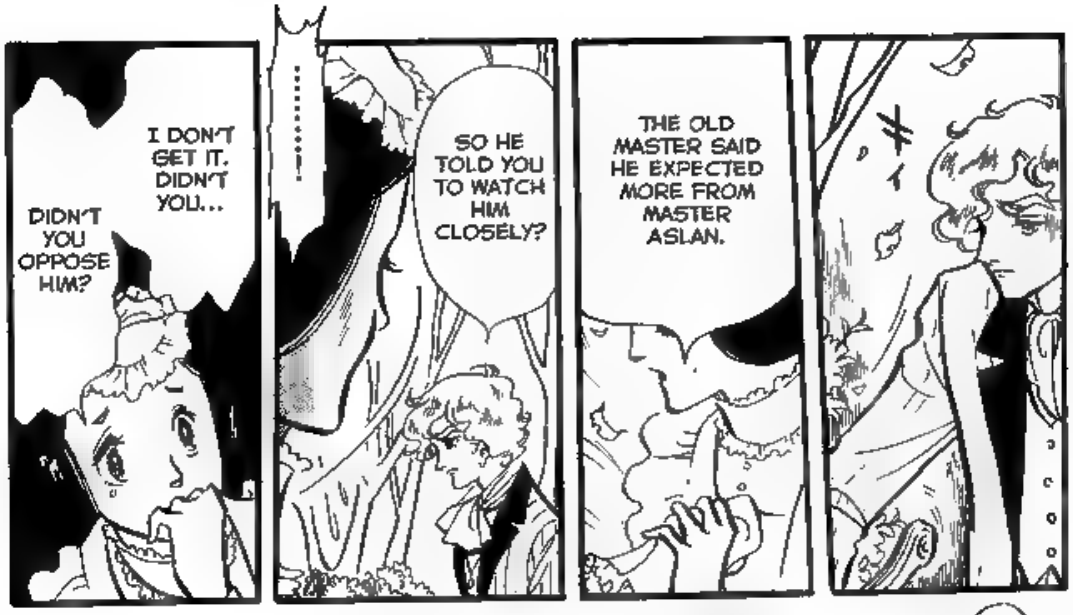
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND
JUST HOW MANY HOPES I HAVE HANGING ON YOU
HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU.
JGH.
WELL
WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING?
EVEN IF I'M NOT ENOUGH, EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, THAT'S WHO I AM.
I AM ME.
I DO, FATHER.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE ME.


YES! THAT'S T! ISN'T IT OBVIOUS
ERR
YES... THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING.
MARRY ?!
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY HER?
THAT CO-COT-TE.
HER!
I WILL MARRY
COME OVER... HERE...
YES ...
I LOVE HER, FA...

YOU BRAIN-LESS FOOL!
L DEL LE!
ガシャーン
ABOUT HOW DIS-APPOINTED I AM?!
DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT HOW SAD YOUR MOTHER IS BECAUSE OF THESE RU-MOURS?
YES!
NOW... I'M THINKING ABOUT IT!!

I'LL HELP YOU.
HE'S BEEN SHUT AWAY IN THE STUDY EVER SINCE THE OLD MASTER RETURNED...
AND YESTERDAY NIGHT... HE ATE VERY LITTLE...
HOW'S ASLAN?
DON'T BE SHY!
I'M QUITE STRONG!
OH! THAT'S ALRIGHT, M. WATTS.

.....
IT'S BEEN ALMOST A WHOLE DAY.
WHAT SHOULD I... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I FEAR FOR HIS HEALTH!
HEY, LIDELLE. I BELIEVE HE'S THINKING IN EARNEST.
.....
WHAT TROUBLES HIM...
IS THAT THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM WORRYING ABOUT GETTING A SOLUTION FOR HIS INDIVIDUAL CASE.
SO HE'S THINKING HARD ABOUT IT.
HIS CHOICES WILL CAUSE HARM TO OTHER PEOPLE.


I DON'T GET IT. DIDN'T YOU...
DIDN'T YOU OPPOSE HIM?
.....!
SO HE TOLD YOU TO WATCH HIM CLOSELY?
THE OLD MASTER SAID HE EXPECTED MORE FROM MASTER ASLAN.

THEN... THEN WHY?!
WHY IS HE IN LOVE WITH A... WITH A COCOTTE!

AH
I DID.

AH... AH...

LIDEL-LE!

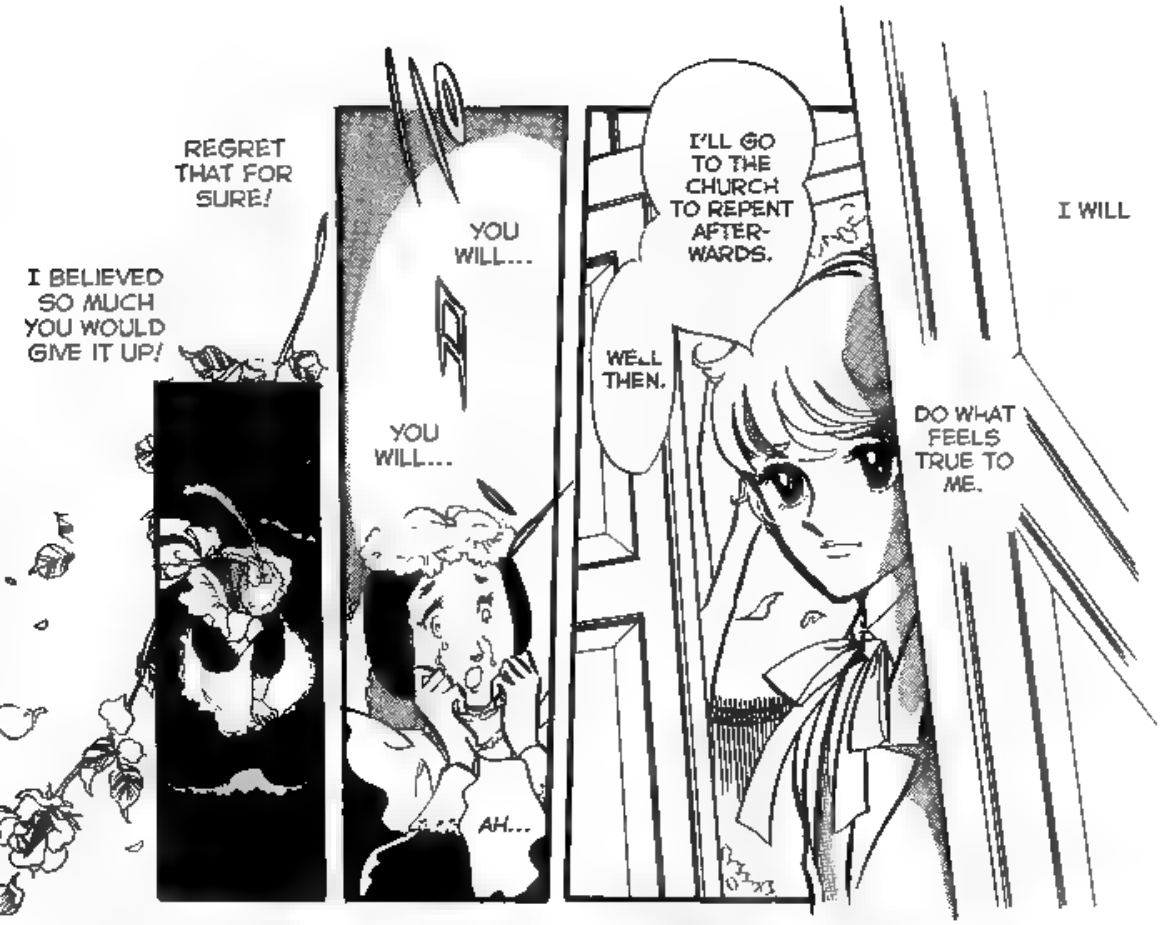
OF COURSE PEOPLE WOULD OPPOSE! IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SOMETHING MASTER ASLAN WOULD DO!

ALL WE CAN DO IS PRAY FOR IT TO BE A LOVE THAT CAN BE QUELLED
WITH OPPOSI-TION
WE CAN DO NOTHING MORE THAN THIS.
THE REST IS UP TO HIM.
LIDEL-LE...
L DELLE
LIDELLE
IF ASLAN WEREN'T WHAT'S CAUSING YOU PAIN
I'D EXTEND A HELPING HAND TO YOU RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT...

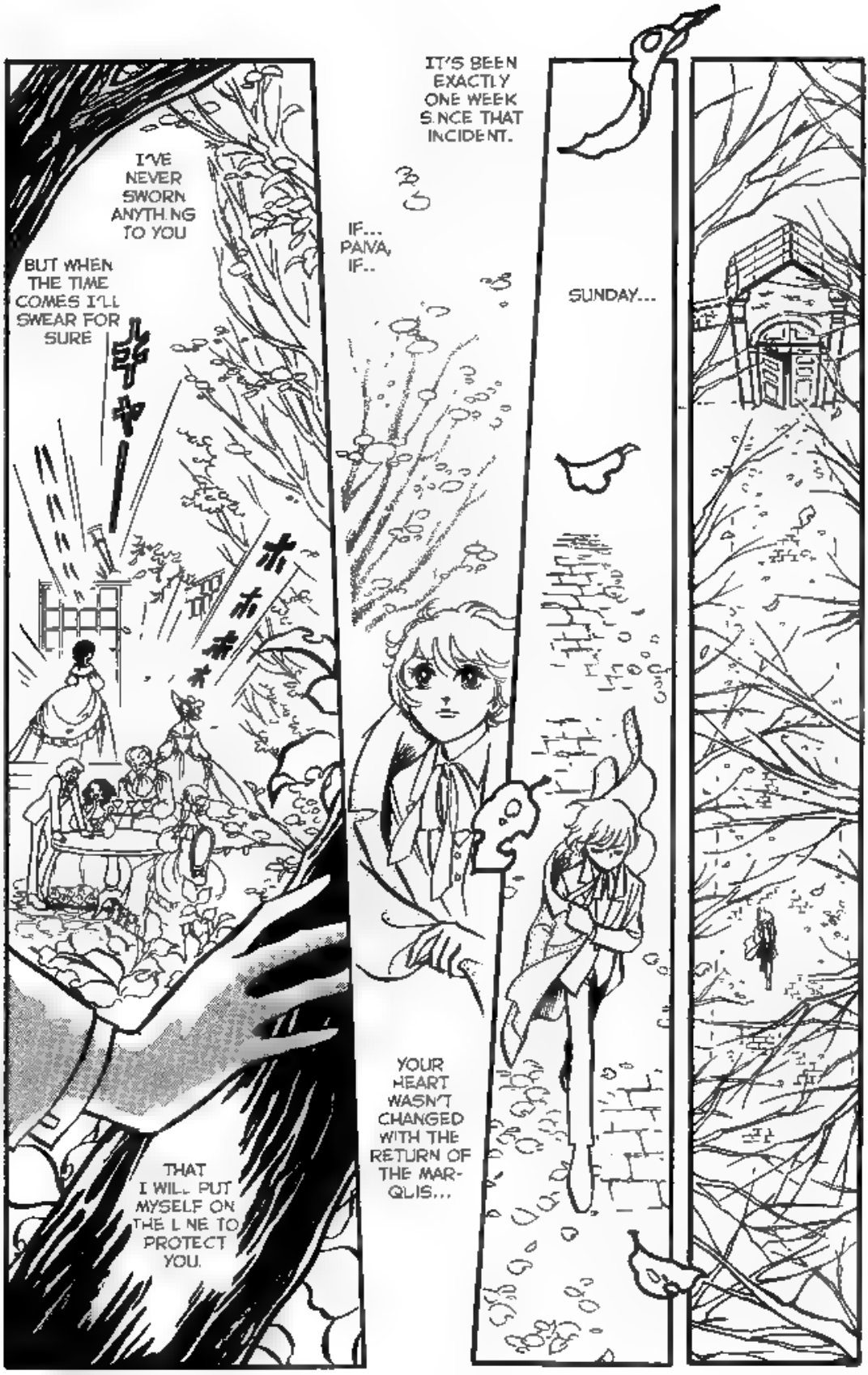
AH!
MASTER?! I'M SO GLAD!
I'LL GET YOU SOME HOT MILK RIGHT AWAY!
LIDELLE, WAIT!
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY! I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING READY!
LIDELLE, WERE YOU HERE THE WHOLE NIGHT...
NON
YOU MUSTN'T!
YOU'LL GET SICK.
I'M SORRY, BUT I MUST LEAVE RIGHT AWAY.

PLEASE UNDER-STAND.
I'LL COME HOME RIGHT AWAY, AND WHEN I DO I'LL EAT ANYTHING AND EVE-RYTHING YOU MAKE ME, I PROMISE.
DON'T WORRY, I HAVE MY HEALTH IN MIND
I MUST PUT MY MIND IN ORDER RATHER THAN MY HUNGER RIGHT NOW
IMPOS-SIBLE!
YOU'RE GOING SOME-WHERE?!
LIDELLE!
IS IT THE CHURCH? TODAY IS SUNDAY.
TO MASS?
NON
I'M NOT GOING TO MASS.
MASTER ASLAN!!
LIDELLE
THAT... MEANS...
YESTERDAY I UNDERSTOOD FOR THE FIRST TIME, THAT MY FATHER DIDN'T SEE ME AS AN ADULT.
NO, NOT AT ALL!
NO, NOT JUST MY FATHER... EVERYONE.

I NOW UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
MY SWEET LIDELLE
I THOUGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING AS MUCH AS I COULD
ABOUT THE REPERCUSSIONS OF MY LOVE.
AND THEN I THOUGHT FOR THE WHOLE NIGHT.
TO BE HONEST, I WAS SHOCKED.
I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING TORN APART
WHEN I THINK ABOUT YOUR DEVOTED HEART THAT CARES FOR ME
HEY, LIDELLE
MY PARENTS, AND FRIENDS, AND EVEN SOCIETY. THEY ARE RIGHT.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
BUT, AHH.
I AM JUST AS RIGHT!
FOR HER...
TOO
I AM
WHAT I FEEL
BUT
I JUST CAN'T STOP


REGRET THAT FOR SURE!
I BELIEVED SO MUCH YOU WOULD GIVE IT UP!
YOU WILL...
YOU WILL...
AH...
I'LL GO TO THE CHURCH TO REPENT AFTER-WARDS.
WELL THEN.
I WILL
DO WHAT FEELS TRUE TO ME.

IT HURTS...
HOW PAINFUL IT IS...
TO DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.
IT FEELS AS IF I HAVE SWALLOWED LEAD.

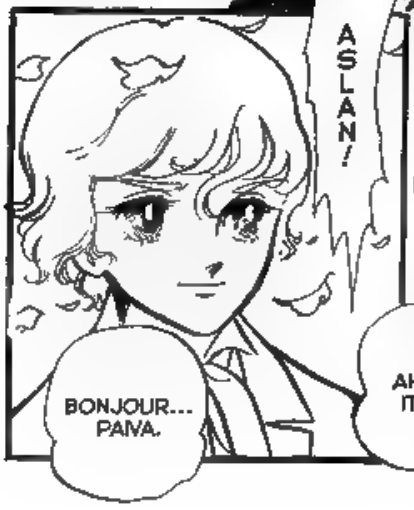

I'VE NEVER SWORN ANYTHING TO YOU
BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES I'LL SWEAR FOR SURE
THAT I WILL PUT MYSELF ON THE LINE TO PROTECT YOU.
IF... PAIVA, IF..
IT'S BEEN EXACTLY ONE WEEK SINCE THAT INCIDENT.
YOUR HEART WASN'T CHANGED WITH THE RETURN OF THE MARQUIS...
SUNDAY...

I'M SORRY, YOU CAN'T SIT HERE.

THAT SEAT IS MINE! THE ONE NEXT TO HER, YOU WEASEL!

THERE, THERE
THE REASON WE CAN SPEND A NICE MOMENT WITH HER LIKE THIS IS DUE TO THE MARQUIS' GENEROSITY.
TCH, IS IT THE SEAT OF THE MARQUIS?

HE'S WATCHING FROM SOME SECLUDED PLACE IN THE MANSION.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT. THE MARQUIS COMES NOWHERE NEAR THIS CHAIR


ASLAN!
BONJOUR... PAIVA.

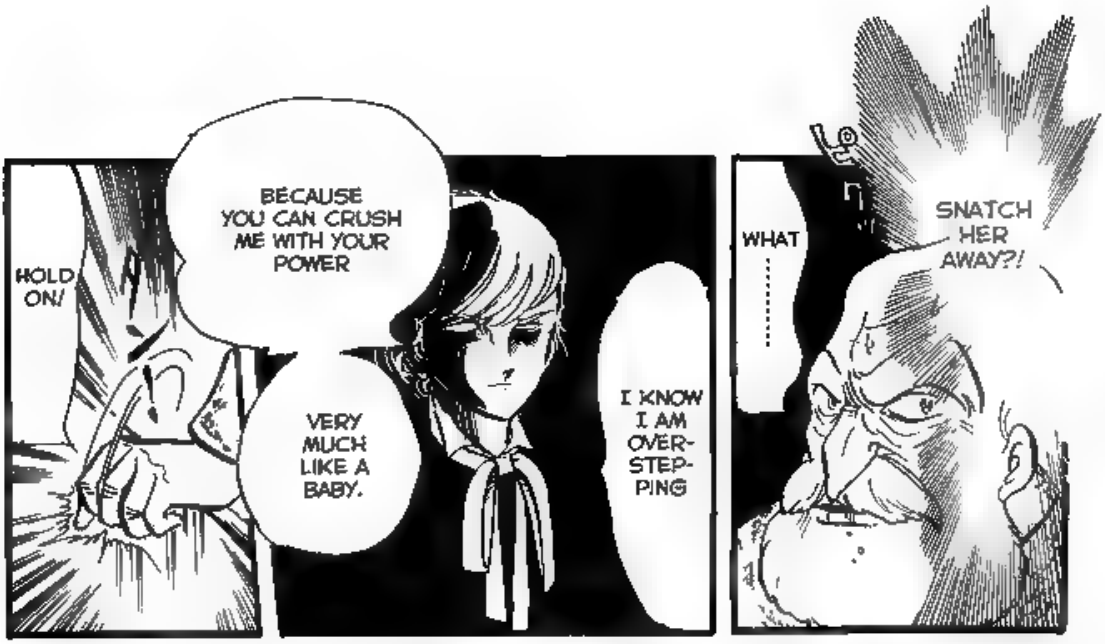
IS THAT SEAT FREE?
AH, NO, IT'S...
ALL I CAN DO IS LEAVE THIS CHAIR PREPARED FOR YOU...

I'M SORRY, ASLAN.

HO HO...
YOU WANT TO SPEAK TO ME?
WHAT AN ODD REQUEST THAT IS.
YOU'RE PAIVA'S YOUNG SWALLOW, AREN'T YOU?
IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULD KEEP TRUE TO WHAT YOU ARE AND FLY AWAY FROM HER.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING YOURSELF INTO, IT'S BEST THAT YOU KEEP YOURSELF IN CHECK.
BUT THESE ARE THE WORDS OF SOMEONE MADLY IN LOVE, I SHOULD AT LEAST LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.
.....
AH...
FU FU .....
IT'S AI RIGHT.
PLEASE LET ME STAY! I'M IN THIS, TOO!!
YOU DO THAT.
PAIVA, PLEASE LEAVE.
WE'LL TALK LATER

YOU'LL GET NOTHING BUT TORMENT IF YOU TAKE THE MARQUIS HEAD-ON!
YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR HIM
ASLAN, NO...
NO ONE CAN OPPOSE HIM
NO ONE.
YOU'LL JUST BE SEVERELY STRICKEN WITH THE WHIP OF HIS POWER AND WORDS.
FIRST OF ALL, SHALL WE HAVE A DRINK .
VISCOUNT ASLAN BATTOUR, WAS IT?
MARQUIS GEORGES-LOUIS GARGERE.
NO, I'M NOT A VISCOUNT YET.

A SWALLOW IS A SWALLOW.
WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO SAY IS NATURALLY DECIDED.
HOW DO I KNOW THIS? EVEN IF IT DOESN'T HAPPEN AS WE SPEAK
BUT MOST CAME BACK TO THEIR SENSES AS WE SPOKE.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOUR CASE IS A RARE ONE.
AND I PLAN...
I SINCERELY LOVE PAIVA.
JUST AS YOU GUESSED
EXCUSE ME
MY HAND SLIPPED BY ACCIDENT WHILE YOU WERE SEEING THROUGH ME.
TO SNATCH HER AWAY FROM YOU!


HOLD ON!
BECAUSE YOU CAN CRUSH ME WITH YOUR POWER
VERY MUCH LIKE A BABY.
I KNOW I AM OVER-STEP-PING
WHAT .....
SNATCH HER AWAY?!

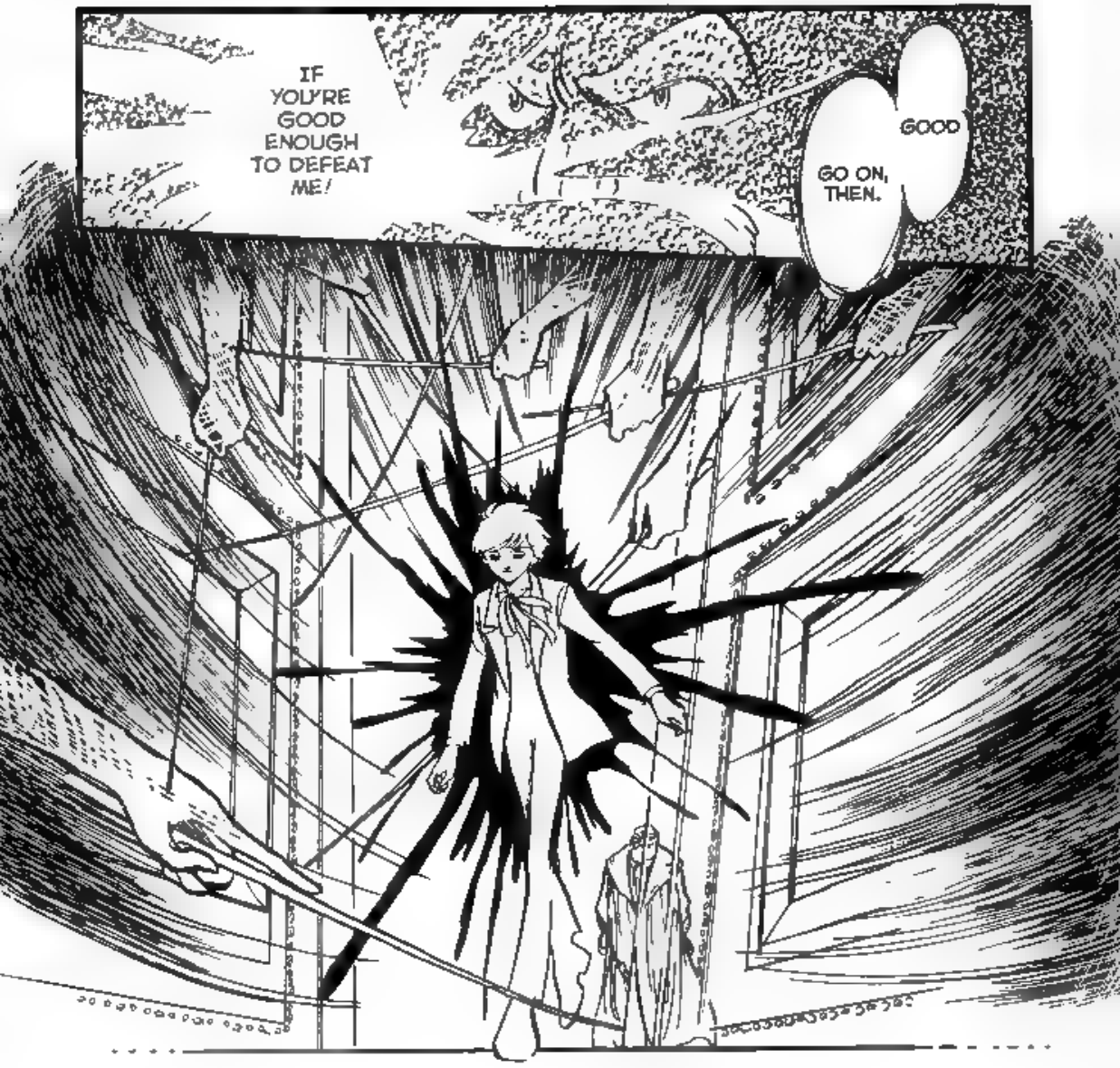
NO.
BE CARE-FUL.
YOU SHOULD BE SAYING "PLEASE ALLOW ME TO HAVE HER", NO?
WHAT YOU MEAN TO SAY ISN'T "SNATCH HER AWAY"
AREN'T YOU CHOOSING YOUR WORDS WRONGLY IN YOUR EXCITE-MENT?

BUT IF YOU WANT TO THINK SO, GO AHEAD.
I DON'T THINK I MIS-TOOK ANY-THING
OTHER-WISE YOU WILL MAKE ME ANGRY WITH YOUR MISTAKE.

IT'S ONLY NORMAL EVERYONE WOULD BE IN LOVE WITH HER.
THERE'S NOTHING TO REGRET, SHE'S YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL AND CLEVER.
HOW REGRETFUL, BECAUSE I LOVE HER TOO.
YES
YOU LIKE HER, RIGHT?
I TOO HAVE THAT RIGHT, YES?
YOU'RE NOT MARRIED TO HER SO...
I'M THINKING ABOUT ASKING HER TO MARRY ME.
FU
SHE CAN'T JUST GIVE THAT UP, OR CAN SHE?
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO TAKES CARE OF HER EVERY NEED...
LOVE CAN'T BE COMPARED TO POWER OR MATERIAL THINGS.
WHEN IT COMES TO LOVES, ONE CAN'T FIGHT WITH ANYTHING ELSE BUT LOVE.

THE SWORD YOU USE TO FIGHT SHOULD ONLY BE LOVE ITSELF.
EITHER WAY, YOU ARE CORRECT.
INDEED, YOU ARE.
AT THIS RATE I'LL BECOME A SCOUNDREL WHO WILL BE DISINHERITED BY HIS FATHER!
I'M NOT A VISCOUNT, MARQUIS.
THAT'S TRUE, VISCOUNT ASLAN BATTOUR!
INDEED!
AND THEN THERE'S THE STATE OF MIND OF THE PEOPLE.
AND UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES
EVERY "BATTLE" HAPPENS IN A SETTING
LITTLE SWALLOW.
BUT YOU SHOULD THINK WELL ABOUT THIS
NOMISUKE
BUT EVEN SO...
YOU WILL INSIST ON FIGHTING...?
OR BECAUSE YOU COULD NOT WITHSTAND SOCIETY'S CRITICISM...
ETC, ETC...
YOU CAN ALSO LOSE BY BEING BETRAYED BY YOUR SUBORDINATES AND AIDES.
JUST LIKE YOU CAN LOSE BY A LACK OF SUPPLIES

YES
YOU'LL LOSE, ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING
EVEN IN THAT SITUATION... RIGHT?
IF PAIVA DOESN'T ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSAL...


IF YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ME!
GOOD
GO ON, THEN.

I MADE MY INTENTIONS CLEAR TO THE MARQUIS.
PAIVA, LISTEN. LISTEN PLEASE
ASLAN!
AND I HAVE TO FIGHT EVERYONE AROUND ME FOR THAT ..
I LOVE YOU.
SO I WILL MARRY YOU.
OH, ASLAN! BE QUIET! YOU'RE WHITE AS A SHEET!
THEREFORE, PAIVA!
SWEAR TO ME!
IF YOU LOVE ME TOO
THAT YOU WON'T GIVE INTO HIS PRESSURE!
THAT YOU WON'T

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU'LL KEEP ON WISHING ONLY FOR YOUR OWN HAPPINESS!
HMPH
AUTUMN'S ALMOST OVER.
SO PROMISE ME
THAT, FOR MY SAKE
MY WISH IS TO BE HAPPILY TOGETHER WITH YOU.
I'LL THROW ANYTHING AWAY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THAT.
IT'S GREAT, ISN'T IT, PAIVA?

AND HERE I WAS THINKING HE WOULD LIVE UP TO HIS BIG TALK.
DID HE GIVE IT UP SINCE THAT INCI-DENT?
WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOUR YOUNG SWALLOW, PAIVA?
SEEMS LIKE HE'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.
HUM... AT LEAST YOU AVOIDED DOING SOMETHING CRUEL.
IT'S BEST THAT YOU DON'T TEMPT A PROMISING YOUTH IN VAIN
TOWARDS THE PATH TO HIS SELF-DESTRUCTION.
HM
WEL-COME BACK.
I'VE PRE-PARED SOME HOT TEA.
.....

THEY'RE CAMELLIAS... MARQUIS.
I REQUESTED TO THE FLORIST FOR THEM TO BE DELIVERED EVERY MORNING.
WHAT ARE THOSE FLOWERS?
ASLAN!
ASLAN
THIS FEELS PAINFUL
KEEPING ON WISHING FOR MY OWN HAPPINESS
BECAUSE THAT MEANS
I'M FORCING YOU TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF.
BUT IF I LOSE HEART
THAT SACRIFICE WILL BE FOR NOTHING.
WHEN I SEE THESE TWO FLOWERS THAT COME FROM YOUR HEART EVERY MORNING
I REGAIN MY DETERMINATION
THEY SAY "FLY!"

風と木の詩⑧

〈風と木の詩〉⑧＊おわり＊ 週刊少女コミック昭和51年第10号より連載

風と木の詩 8

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